

**25** Ask and answer.

- 1 How do we know what dinosaurs were like?
- 2 What kind of information can be found in a fossil?
- 3 What kinds of fossils are there?

**26** Read. Then ask and answer.

- 1 Have you ever seen a fossil?
- 2 What kind of fossil was it?
- 3 Where did you find it?
- 4 What information could be found in that fossil?
- 5 How are a fossil and a shell similar or different?

**MINI-PROJECT**  
Research an animal from the past and write about its fossil. What does it look like? Where did palaeontologists find it? What can we learn about the animal from its fossil?

What is palaeontology?

It is ...



**24** Read and find these words.

dinosaur fossils swan octopus palaeontologists

**Fossils**

Dinosaurs lived a long time ago but they are all extinct now. We know about them because palaeontologists study their fossils. Palaeontology is the scientific study of past life by analysing animal and plant fossils. Fossils are the remains of ancient animals and plants that have left an impression in the earth or rocks over a very long time. A lot of information can be seen by palaeontologists when a fossil is found. They can tell if the animal had fur or not, if it could fly or not and many other details by studying the shape and the structure of the fossil. The shape of the wing of a flying dinosaur was not so different to that of the swan or any other bird today. There are fossils of big animals (dinosaurs, elephants etc.) and fossils of very small animals such as insects (butterflies, ants etc.) Marine fossils are also found under the sea by marine archaeologists. Scientists can find out about the life history of the octopus by studying fossils.

