



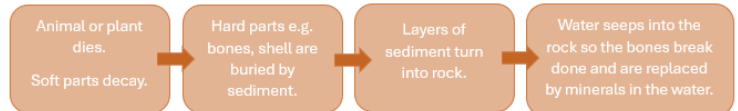
Fossils

Year 6

Knowing More, Remembering More

Remembering previous learning

- What is a fossil?** The remains/trace of a living thing (animals or plants) that lived a long time ago.
Which parts of an animal usually turn into a fossil? Shells, bones and sometimes animal footprints.
What is sediment? Soil, sand, gravel and small pieces of rock.
Why are fossils useful for scientists? They help them to discover about living things from the past.
What is fossilisation? The process that explains how a fossil is formed.
What are the key stages of fossilisation?
How long does fossilisation take? Thousands of years.



In this unit children will

- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Working Scientifically:

- 6.10 Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and a degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
- 6.12 Use scientific evidence to answer questions.
- 6.13 Make conclusions based on scientific evidence and from their own testing and findings.

Key Learning Steps:

1. Fossil formation
2. Explore fossils
3. Mary Anning

Key Vocabulary:

- fossil
- rock
- decompose
- skeleton
- evolution
- palaeontologist
- plesiosaur skeleton

Key Scientists:



Classic

Mary Anning
(1799 - 1847)

English fossil collector and palaeontologist.

Knowing More, Remembering More

Knowing more in Y6

- What are the differences between older and newer fossils?** Older fossils are smaller and simpler; newer fossils are larger and more complex.
- How do fossils show that organisms may have evolved over time?** Newer fossils are larger and more complex, supporting Charles Darwin's theory that simple organisms evolved into more complex ones.
- Who was Mary Anning?** A famous palaeontologist who discovered many fossils during the 1800s.
- What did she discover?** Her discoveries included the plesiosaur, ichthyosaur and pterosaur fossils.
- What challenges did Mary Anning face?** Her discoveries made her famous but, because she was a woman, her findings were often presented as male scientists' work.
- How did Mary Anning's discoveries change our understanding of fossils and evolution?** They helped us understand more about prehistoric life and prove that extinction can occur (before Darwin's theory of evolution).