Fascinating Fossils
Vocabulary Words

Instructions: Review the vocabulary words, and then complete the activity on the other side of this worksheet.

1) **Fossils** – Remains of ancient life that have been turned to stone

2) **Body Fossil** – Actual parts of plants and animals that have been turned to stone (i.e. bone, shells, leaves)

3) **Coprolite** – Fossilized dinosaur dung (scat)

4) **Fossilization** – Process by which the remains of ancient living things are turned to rock

5) **Paleontologist** – A scientist who studies fossils and ancient life

6) **Sedimentary Rock** – Rock made of layers of tightly packed sand and clay

7) **Sandstone** – A type of sedimentary rock that is made of sand

8) **Trace Fossil** – A fossilized sign that a plant or animal once lived in an area (i.e. footprints, coprolite)

9) **Porous** – Full of tiny holes that water, air, and light can pass through

10) **Mineralization** – to convert into a mineral substance; to fill with a mineral substance
Name: ____________________________________

Instructions: Fill in the blanks, using “Fascinating Fossils” vocabulary words.

Jane, a famous ____________, was hiking in the Colorado mountains searching for ____________, which are remains of ancient life that have turned to stone. All of a sudden the ground shook beneath her. Jane ran over a hill and saw that there had been a huge landslide. She went over to look at the piles of rocks and saw layers of ____________, a type of sedimentary rock. Fossils are found in sandstone, so Jane was excited to search through the rocks! Just as she began to dig, she found fossilized bones. The bones had turned to stone through a process called ____________, which are fossilized parts of plants and animals. Jane saw that the fossils belonged to an Apatosaurus. These bones are examples of ____________, which are fossilized parts of plants and animals. Jane hiked further up the mountain and found fossilized dinosaur dung, called ____________. She also found a huge footprint, which is an example of a ____________. Jane carefully removed the fossils from the rocks and donated them to a museum.
Instructions: Use this answer sheet to identify the objects at each of the stations. Circle the correct answers in A and B. For station C, fill in the blanks with the correct answer. At station D, draw a picture of your favorite fossil.

FOSSIL QUEST

A. Circle the correct answer!

This fossil is:
- a plant
- an animal bone
- animal dung or scat

B. Circle the correct answer!

This IMPRESSION is a:
leaf fish bird

It is a:
trace fossil body fossil

C. This station has 2 objects. Fill in the blanks.

1) __B___ __N___ ___

2) ___ ___ ___S___ ___ S___ __ L___

D. Look at the tiny fossils, and draw your favorite one in this box! Be gentle with them!
Name: ____________________________________

FOSSILIZATION

**Instructions:** Color the pictures on the attached sheet of paper. Then cut the squares along the dotted lines. Paste them on this sheet in the correct order of the fossilization process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Step</th>
<th>Second Step</th>
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<tr>
<th>Third Step</th>
<th>Last Step</th>
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Fossilization

- Animal dies
- Its skin and muscles decompose
- Its bones soak up the minerals
- It becomes a body fossil