

# Fossil Word Challenge

Our Earth is extremely old! If you know where to look, fossils can provide clues to how our landscape has been shaped over millions of years and the plants and animals that have lived here. Fossils are formed when an organism dies and is buried. Overtime the organic material is replaced by minerals and hardens like stone. Studying fossils can provide clues to ancient environments and can help us predict future environments.

Complete the word challenge below to learn more about Earth's past!

**Word Bank:**

**Fossil**

**Sedimentary**

**Organism**

**Paleontologist**

**Petrified Wood**

**Environment**

**Ecosystem**

**Trilobite**

1. A scientist who studies ancient life, primarily through the fossil record.  
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2. The remains or evidence of living things.  
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3. A group of living plants and animals interacting with their environment.  
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4. Now stone, this wood has been replaced by minerals to become this type of fossil.  
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5. This rock forms from silt, sediments, and soils hardening over thousands of years and is the most common type of rock that fossils are found in.  
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6. This fossil group is made up of extinct marine arthropods. (*Hint: it's pictured below*)  
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7. The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives.  
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8. An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form.  
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