MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

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.
   _P_ _A_ _L_ _E_ _O_ _N_ _T_ _O_ _L_ _O_ _G_ _I_ _S_ _T_
2. The remains or evidence of living things.
   _F_ _O_ _S_ _S_ _I_ _L_
3. A group of living plants and animals interacting with their environment.
   _E_ _C_ _O_ _S_ _Y_ _S_ _T_ _E_ _M_
4. Now stone, this wood has been replaced by minerals to become this type of fossil.
   _P_ _E_ _T_ _R_ _I_ _F_ _I_ _E_ _D_ _W_ _O_ _O_ _D_
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.
   _S_ _E_ _D_ _I_ _M_ _E_ _N_ _T_ _A_ _R_ _Y_
6. This fossil group is made up of extinct marine arthropods. (*Hint: it's pictured below)*
   _T_ _R_ _I_ _L_ _O_ _B_ _I_ _T_ _E_
7. The surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives.
   _E_ _N_ _V_ _I_ _R_ _O_ _N_ _M_ _E_ _N_ _T_
8. An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form.
   _O_ _R_ _G_ _A_ _N_ _I_ _S_ _M_