



Fossils

Primary Years - Student Activities



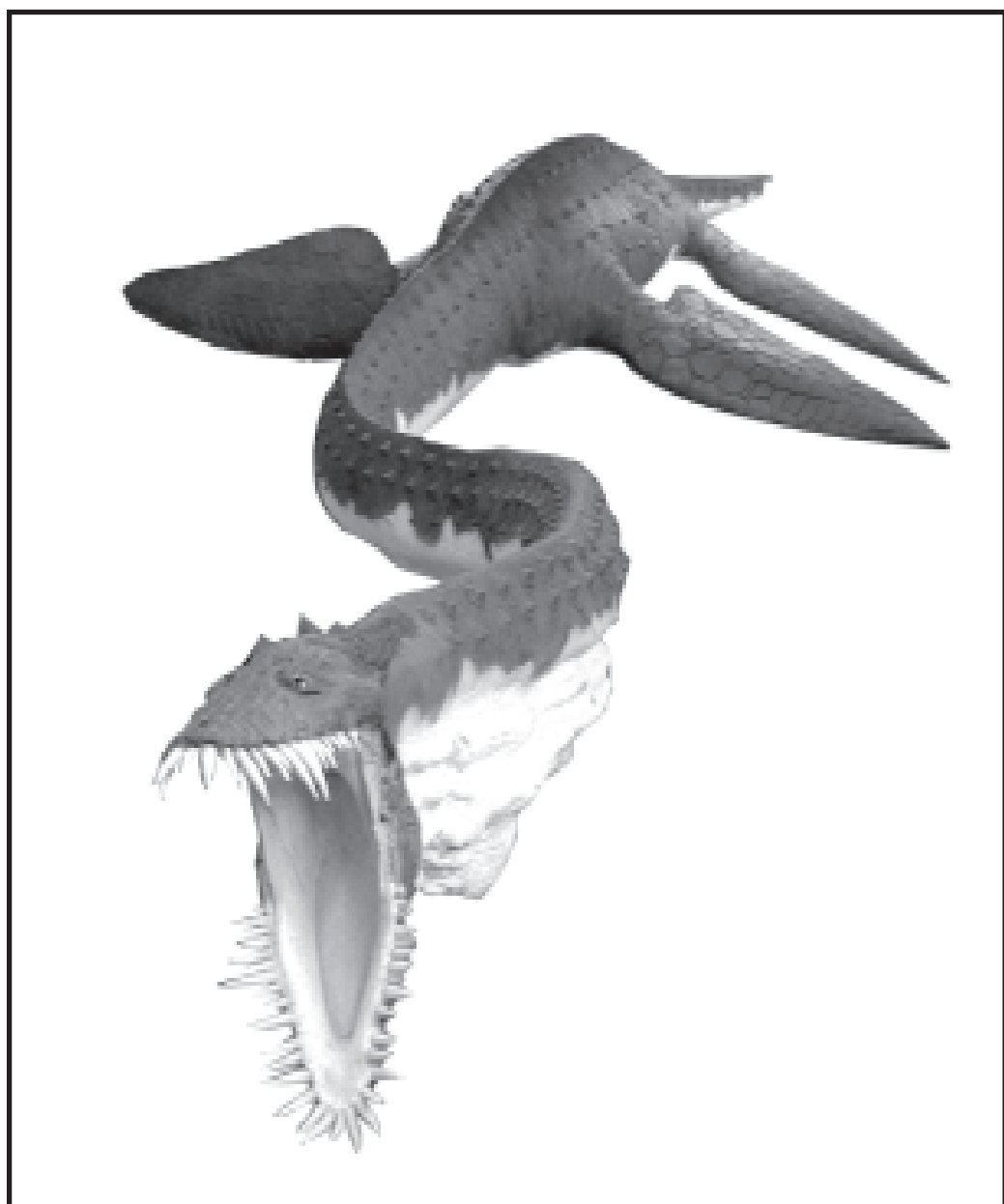
Government of South Australia
Department of Education and
Children's Services

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Fossil tree (*Outside the museum by the east wing*)

Before entering the museum, have a close look at the fossil tree trunk.
Scientists think this fossilised gum tree trunk is over a million years old.



Imogen and Harriet have discovered the fossilised tree.



In a small group or with a partner, talk about how you think the tree trunk became fossilised.

What was the tree trunk turned into? _____

See if you can find some fossils trapped in the limestone walls of the museum.

Where do you normally find this type of fossil? _____

How do you think they became trapped in limestone? _____

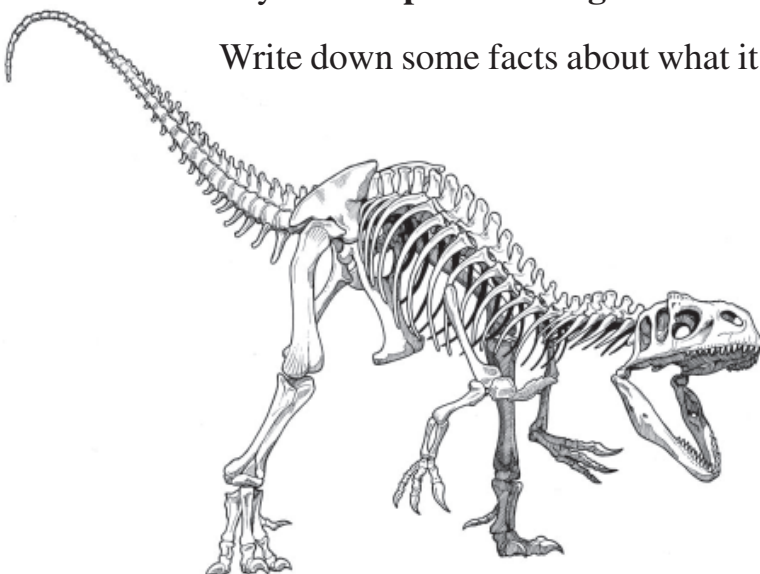
Allosaurus atrox skeleton (*museum foyer above the security desk*)

Imagine Allosaurus jumped down onto the floor in front of your class.

Talk to a friend about what you think would happen next.

Make out you are a **palaeontologist** and look closely at the Allosaurus skeleton.

Write down some facts about what it might have been like when it was alive.



Tyrannosaurus rex **skull** (*Ground Level outside World Mammals Gallery*)

T. rex did not live in Australia. It lived in North America. Look closely at its skull.

Why do you think *T. rex* had large holes in its skull? (The holes have been filled in.)

Because _____



What evidence can you find that *T. rex* did not eat plants? _____

Talk to a friend about why dinosaurs became extinct. Describe some animals alive today that are related to dinosaurs.

Addyman **plesiosaur** (*Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery.*)

Explore the gallery with a partner.



Imagine you were an opal miner and had just discovered this opalised plesiosaur skeleton.

What do the bones tell you about the kind of animal it was?

Describe the habitat where the plesiosaur lived.

Plesiosaur **model** (*Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery*)

See if you can find the plesiosaur model.

If the plesiosaur lived 120 million years ago, how do we know what it looked like?



Gems from a **desert ocean**

Look for fossils of other sea creatures that lived at the same time as the plesiosaur.



Draw some of them here. Write their names and size.

What mineral have these fossils been turned into? _____

Fossils from the Flinders Ranges (Level 3 - Opposite the big lift.)

Search the display for one of the oldest fossil.

Write its name here. _____

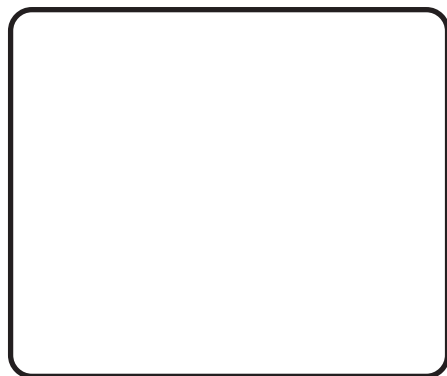
Try drawing the fossil here.



Big stone slabs in a jigsaw puzzle

Imagine the seafloor was turned up on its side. You are now standing in front of it!
Carefully touch the slabs. Talk to a friend about how you know it was the seafloor.

Walk around until you can see underneath the seafloor.
Search for fossils of small soft-bodied animals that were buried under the sand.



Try drawing one here. Use the labels to find out its name and write it down here.

Find the fossil of the biggest **flat worm**.

Record its name. _____

Armour plated animals (Use the Computer Touch Screen)

Which part of the world's first predator has been fossilised ? _____

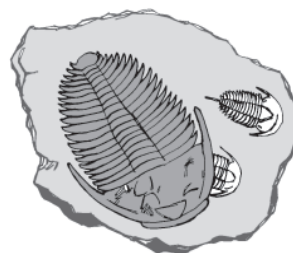
What was it used for? _____

What protection did they have?

How old are the **trilobite fossils**? _____ million years.

Where were they discovered? _____

Ask a friend if they know an animal alive today that looks like a trilobite or the first predator.



Fossils

Fossil Clue Card

Discovered by a policeman. *(Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery - Opal Display.)*

I look like an old truck tyre.

If you uncoiled my body I would be very long.

I was full of air so that I could float.

What am I? _____

Where did I live? _____

How old am I? _____ million years.

How did I become a fossil? _____

Draw me here.

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Fossils

Fossil Clue Card

As old as a dinosaur *(Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery - Opal Display.)*

I had a very scaly body like a snake.

I looked like a snake with a turtle's body.

My four flippers helped me move along.

Who am I? _____

Where did I live? _____

How old am I? _____ million years.

How did I become a fossil? _____

Draw me here.

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Fossils

Fossil Clue Card

Armour plated (*Level 3 Opposite lift. See window by the seabed slabs.*)

I had a hard outside skeleton to protect me from other hungry animals.

I lived in the sea millions of years ago.

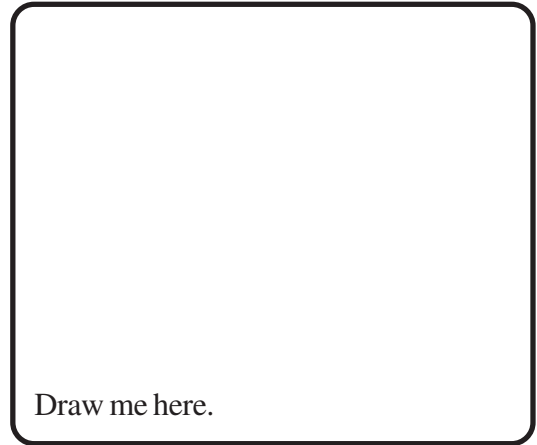
I looked a bit like a garden slater.

What am I? _____

Where did I live? _____

How old am I? _____ million years.

How did I become a fossil? _____



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Fossils

Fossil Clue Card

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