



Government
of South Australia



SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
MUSEUM

Fossils

Early Years - Student Activities



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

This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department of Education and Children's Services. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

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



Touch the fossil tree trunk.

Tell a friend what it feels like.

The **fossil tree** feels like _____

It has been turned into _____

Search for some fossils stuck in the museum walls.

Where do you think these animals lived?

On the land in the sea or in the sky.

(Circle your answer)



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

Look out there is an Allosaurus skeleton in the museum!

Draw the shapes of some Allosaurus teeth.

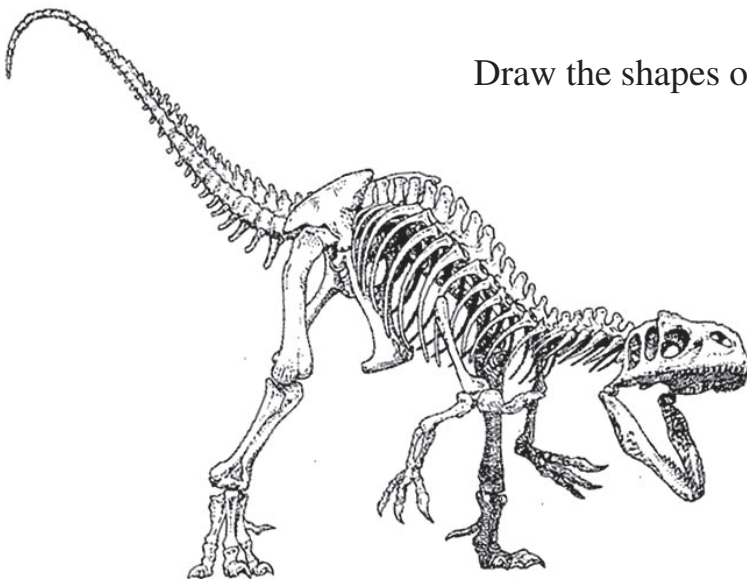


Illustration by Andrew Plant

Harriet and Imogen looking for fossils in the museum walls.

Do you think it ate
meat or plants?
(circle your answer)

Write down the name of a dinosaur that looked like Allosaurus. _____

Write down the name of a dinosaur that ate plants. _____

Student Group Record Sheet

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

Explore the gallery. See if you can find the plesiosaur model.

Look for the plesiosaur's:

teeth

flippers

scaly skin



Draw a line to join the words to the parts on the plesiosaur's body.

Plesiosaurs liked to eat _____

Where do you think the plesiosaur lived millions of years ago?

in the sky

on the land

in the sea

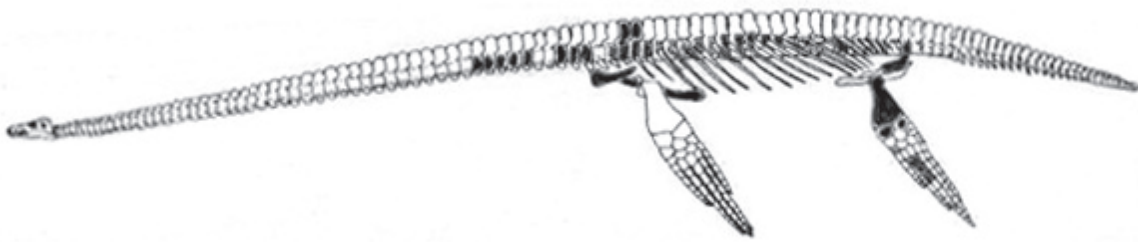
(Circle your answer.)

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

Plesiosaurs are **extinct**. When this one died its bones were buried in mud on the sea floor.

Look closely at its skeleton. Can you see its **backbones** and **flipper bones**.

Circle them on the skeleton here.



Which parts of the plesiosaur skeleton are missing? _____

What do you think the plesiosaur bones have turned into? (Circle your answer.)

wood

opal

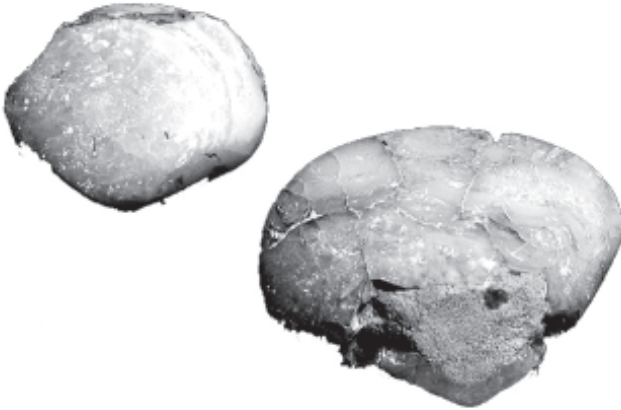
gold

plastic

Opal fossils *(Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery)*

Look for other animal fossils that lived in the sea with the plesiosaur.

Find animal fossils like these.



What kind of fossils are they? _____

Describe their beautiful colours.

Did these animals have their hardest parts on the, **inside** OR **outside**?
(Circle your answer.)

I think these animals have been turned into _____

Sea creatures *(Level 3 Origin Energy Fossil Gallery)*

Look around the gallery. I saw some sea creatures that looked like these.

(Circle which animals you saw.)

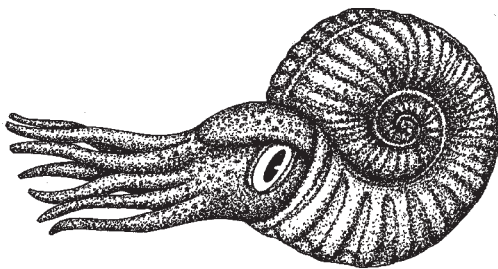
Ammonite

Ichthyosaur

Belemnite

Fish

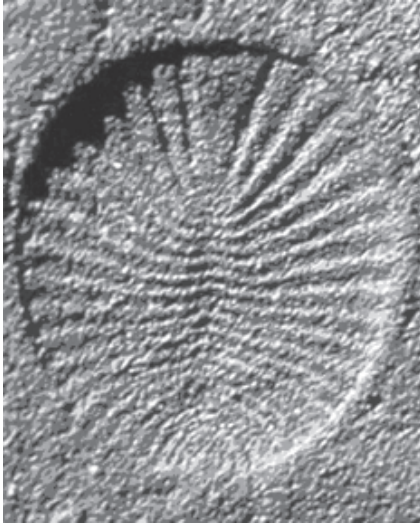
Shark



Student Group Record Sheet**Fossils from the Flinders Ranges** (*Level 3 Opposite the big lift*)

Have a look at the big jigsaw puzzle made of stone slabs. Carefully touch the ripple marks. A long time ago this used to be the sandy sea floor.

Walk around to the other side and look closely at the slabs.



Can you find some fossils of flat worms that look like this?

Count how many can you find. _____

Have a look at the biggest flat worm fossil in the window.

Look at the label and write down its name.

Big changes in the future!

You now know that the world was very different a long time ago.

Talk to your friends about some of the big changes that might happen in the future.

Hotter!**Bigger...!****Too many...!****Extinctions!****Wetter!**