

Fossils

Plant or animal remains that have been preserved in the Earth

Paleontologist

Scientist who studies fossils to learn about ancient life forms

Geologist

Scientist who studies rocks and minerals

Dinosaur

Means terrible lizard; known to rule the land during the Mesozoic Era

Precambrian

First era of geologic time; origin of the Earth

Paleozoic

Second era of geologic time; known for Age of Fishes and rise of reptiles

Mesozoic

Third era of geologic time; known as the Age of Dinosaurs

Cenozoic

Current era of geologic time;  
see the rise of mammals and  
modern man

Triassic

First period of the Mesozoic Era;  
dinosaurs first appear

Jurassic

Second period of the Mesozoic Era

Cretaceous

Last period of the Mesozoic Era;  
dinosaurs and many other life forms  
become extinct at the end of this period

Replacement

Process of fossil formation when the  
original material is replaced by mineral  
deposits; example is petrified wood

Carbon Imprint

Process of fossil formation that occurs as  
the original object is compressed to leave  
an imprint made of carbon

Amber

Resin from ancient  
pine trees

Trace Fossils

These are not the remains of animals, but burrows, footprints, and evidence of feeding; example is coprolite

Gastrolith

Stones that are found in the digestive system of dinosaurs

Coprolite

Fossilized dinosaur dung

Ornithischians

Bird-hipped dinosaurs; such as the stegosaurus

Saurischians

Lizard-hipped dinosaurs; such as the tyrannosaurus rex

Carnivore

Meat eating dinosaurs

Herbivores

Plant eating dinosaurs

Bipedal

Dinosaurs that walk  
or run on two legs

Quadrupedal

Dinosaurs that walk  
or run on four legs