

ACADEMY VIRTUAL FESTIVAL PALEOPALOOZA

A Nine-Day Festival of Fossils

October 17–25

Trace Fossil vs Body Fossil

Fossils are usually thought of as the physical remains of animals, like their skeletons and skin. However, plants also fossilize. We can find leaves or wood in fossil form. Even some kinds of bacteria are known to fossilize in large groups. These are called stromatolites. However, there are other kinds of fossils. They aren't directly part of an organism but are instead left behind. Things like footprints or even poop can fossilize. To help categorize all these different kinds of fossils, scientists break them into two main groups: body fossils and trace fossils. Body fossils, unsurprisingly, are parts of organism bodies. These include teeth, bones, skin, eggs, leaves, wood and bark. Trace fossils are anything made by an organism or left behind by one. Examples are footprints, bodily waste, burrows or the previously mentioned stromatolites.

Know before you begin

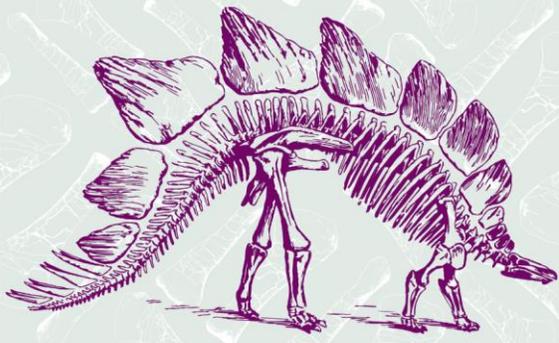
- *This activity can be done inside*
- *All supplies are easy to find*
- *Adult supervision is recommended*

Materials

- *A printer with paper in it*
- *A pencil, pen or marker*

Instructions

- *Print out the sheet on the following page.*
- *Using the definitions given above, look at the photos below and draw lines from the pictures to either the "Body Fossil" and "Trace Fossil" boxes to label them.*
- *Check the cheat sheet to see how many of your answers are correct.*



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A.

Body Fossil

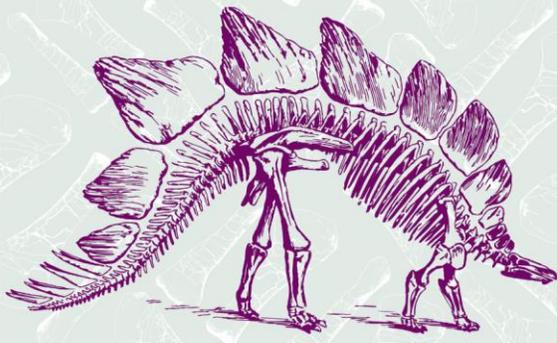


B.

Trace Fossil



C.



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D.

Body Fossil

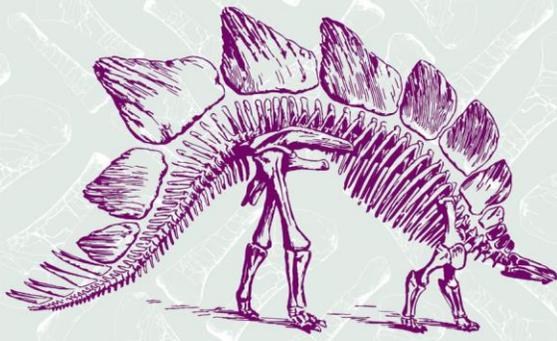


E.

Trace Fossil



F.



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Answer Key:

- *A. The footprint is a trace fossil.*
- *B. The bone is a body fossil.*
- *C. The tooth is a body fossil.*
- *D. The petrified wood is a body fossil.*
- *E. The coprolite is a trace fossil.*
- *F. The egg is a body fossil.*