

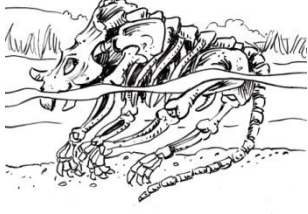
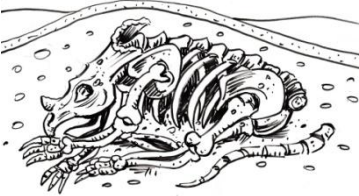





WORKSHEET A - MEMORANDUM

Fossils

Look at the pictures below and describe what happens at each stage of the fossilisation process.

<p>1.</p> 	<p>2.</p> 	<p>3.</p> 
<p>When a plant / animal dies, it falls to the ground.</p>	<p>The flesh of the animal decomposes, or other animals eat it. Only the skeleton remains.</p>	<p>After a lot of rain, the river rose and covered the skeleton with mud and sand.</p>
<p>4.</p> 	<p>5.</p> 	
<p>Over time, more sand and mud layers are formed on top of the skeleton. The layers become hard and turn to rock.</p>	<p>Wind and water erodes the rock over time and the fossils are exposed on the surface. A scientist can now carefully remove the rock and sand around the skeleton and study the fossil in a safe place.</p>	

6. What happens to the soft parts of dead plants / animals?

Soft parts decay and rot away.

7. What happens to the hard parts of dead plants / animals?

The hard parts remain and become fossils.