

# Year 3/4 - Fossils

## *Lesson 2 - Answer sheet*

### Learning Objectives:

To write a detailed explanation of how fossils are formed.

*This is my version of an explanation of how fossils are made! Yours could be even better!*

Fossils are formed over many millions of years. At the very start of the process a living thing dies. This dead animal settles at the bottom of an ocean, river or lake. Over time, the animal rots away leaving only the hard parts, bone and shell behind. Very gradually, sediments settle on top of the bones or shell and create many many layers. These layers become compacted as time passes due to pressure and sedimentary rock is formed. As sedimentary rock is permeable, water trickles through the layers slowly washing the remains of the animal always leaving a perfect mould. This mould is the exact size and shape that the skeleton of the animal was! Tiny pieces of impermeable rock are left behind by the water inside the mould. These build up over many years until the mould is completely full and hardens. Gradually this makes its way to the surface and is then discovered as a fossil!