

Teacher Activity 1 Worksheet: Vocabulary Game

Key Terms	Definition	What I think this means...
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adaptation	A change in the structure or function of an organism that makes it better suited to its environment; it is the result of natural selection's acting upon heritable variation.	
amber	Fossil tree resin that has achieved a stable state through loss of volatile constituents and chemical change after burial in the ground.	
body fossil	Body Fossils are the actual body or body parts of an organism that have been preserved.	
cast	A fossil formed when an animal, plant, or other organism dies, its flesh decays and bones deteriorate due to chemical reactions; minerals gradually enter into the cavity, resulting in a cast, also called a mold fossil, which is in the general form of the original organism.	
cladogram	A cladogram is a diagram used to represent a hypothetical relationship between groups of animals, called a phylogeny. A cladogram is used by a scientist studying phylogenetic systematics to visualise the groups of organisms being compared, how they are related, and their most common ancestors.	
evolution	A gradual change in the characteristics of a population of animals or plants over successive generations: accounts for the origin of existing species from ancestors unlike them	
fossil	A fossil is the hard remains of a prehistoric animal or plant that are found inside a rock.	
mineral	A mineral is a substance such as tin, salt, or sulfur that is formed naturally in rocks and in the earth.	
mold	A fossil formed when sediment fills the inside or covers the outside of the dead organism and the organism's remains do not persist, leaving just the shape and texture of the rock to indicate the organic material that was there.	
organism	An individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form.	

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paleontology	The branch of science concerned with fossil animals and plants.	
permineralization	Permineralization is a process of fossilization in which mineral deposits form internal casts of organisms. Carried by water, these minerals fill the spaces within organic tissue.	
petrified fossil	Petrified fossils form when minerals replace all or part of an organism. Water is full of dissolved minerals. It seeps through the layers of sediment to reach the dead organism. When the water evaporates, only the hardened minerals are left behind.	
phylogeny	A phylogeny (or a tree of life) is a theory about how organisms are related to one another through evolutionary time. Phylogenies assume that more closely related species will be more similar to one another, and they are commonly built using genetic sequences or physical characters.	
preserved remains	The definition of a fossil is the preserved remains of a prehistoric organism or is slang for someone or something that is old and outdated. An example of a fossil is the preserved remains from a prehistoric organism that have been preserved inside rock.	
relative dating	Relative dating is the science of determining the relative order of past events (i.e., the age of an object in comparison to another), without necessarily determining their absolute age, (i.e. estimated age).	
sediment	Sediment is solid material that is moved and deposited in a new location. Sediment can consist of rocks and minerals, as well as the remains of plants and animals.	
taxonomy	Taxonomy is the science of defining and naming groups of biological organisms on the basis of shared characteristics.	
trace fossil	Trace fossils provide us with indirect evidence of life in the past, such as the footprints, tracks, burrows, borings, and feces left behind by animals, rather than the preserved remains of the body of the actual animal itself.	