

## Science – Fossils

### Key vocabulary

- **fossil** – the remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago



- **rock** – a natural material found on or underneath the Earth's crust



- **skeleton** – a collection of bones



- **shell** – a hard covering on the outside of an animal's body



- **sediment** – small pieces of soil, sand, gravel and small rocks

- **fossilisation** – the process through which a fossil is formed



### Factual Knowledge

- A fossil is the remains or trace of a living thing that lived a long time ago.
- Both animals and plants can become fossils.
- Older fossils are usually formed from the shells or bones of living things.
- Animal footprints and tracks can also form fossils.
- When an animal dies, the soft parts of its body break down, leaving behind the hard parts such as the skeleton.
- The process of fossilisation takes thousands of years.