

STUDENT BOOK:	Chapter 10, pp. 312, 319–325
CONCEPTS:	FOSSILS MAJOR STAGES IN THE HISTORY OF LIFE ON EARTH
METHOD:	OBSERVATION

WITNESSES TO HISTORY

Without realizing it, we occasionally come across fossils during our nature outings and travels. Those fossils are witnesses to our history. But what do we know about them? By closely observing them, we can reconstruct the history of life on Earth.

IDENTIFYING THE OBSERVATION CRITERIA

Read pp. 312 and 319–325 in your student book for help in answering questions 1–5.

1. From which era do the earliest fossils date?

2. Which era left behind the fewest fossils? Why, in your opinion?

3. How many types of fossils are there? Name them.

4. Name three types of organisms that remains of which fossilized over time.

- ---
- ---
- ---



Name: _____ Group: _____ Date: _____

5. What information provides helpful clues for better fossil identification?

ESTABLISHING AN OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

6. Complete the following table as instructed below:

- a) Carefully observe the photos on pp. 139–140.
b) For each fossil, find the information missing from the table in question 7.

APPLYING THE OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

7. Use your observations to complete the following table.

Description of fossils

Fossil	Period	Group of living organisms	Fossil type	Clue
_____	Cambrian.	Various invertebrates (trilobite).	Petrified fossil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobster's ancestor. Among oldest living organisms.
_____	Carboniferous.	_____	_____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feather-like. Very abundant at the time.
_____	Triassic.	_____	_____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full of silica. Well preserved structure.

© ERPI Reproduction and adaptation permitted solely for use with Observatory.



Name: _____ Group: _____ Date: _____

Description of fossils *(continued)*

Fossil	Period	Group of living organisms	Fossil type	Clue
_____	Tertiary.	Animals (fish).	Petrified fossil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertebrate. • Spoke-like.
_____	Quaternary.	Animals (mammals).	_____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaw.
_____			_____	
_____			_____	

REFLECTING ON YOUR APPROACH

8. Which of the fossils you just observed were the easiest to identify?

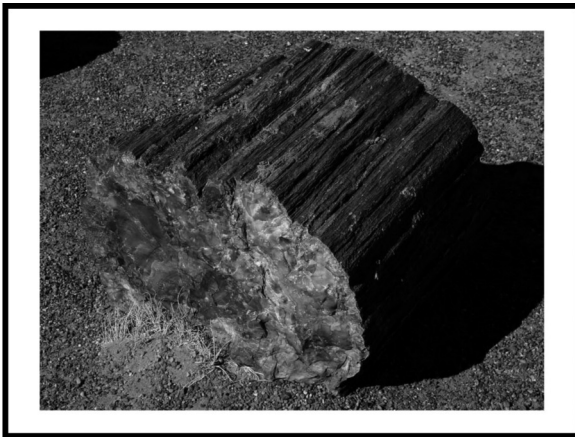
9. How could you improve the observation protocol?



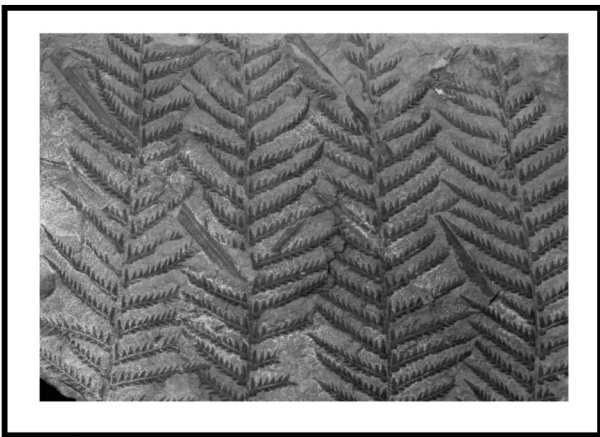
Name: _____ Group: _____ Date: _____

FOSSILS

Fossil 1



Fossil 2

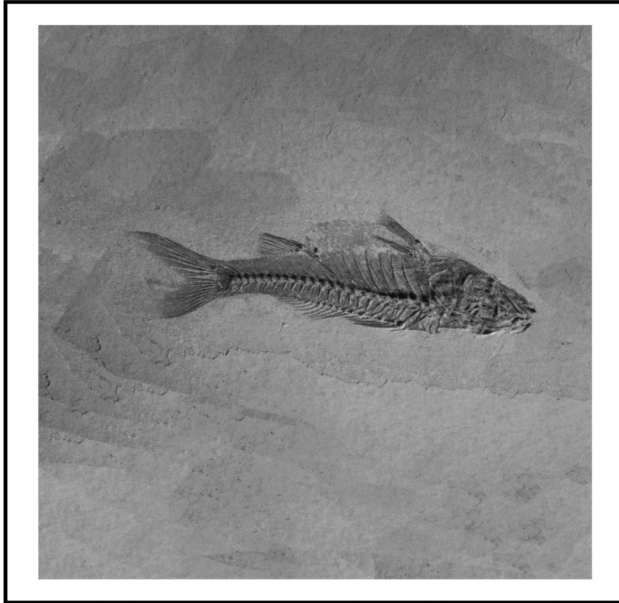


© **ERPI** Reproduction and adaptation permitted
solely for use with *Observatory*.

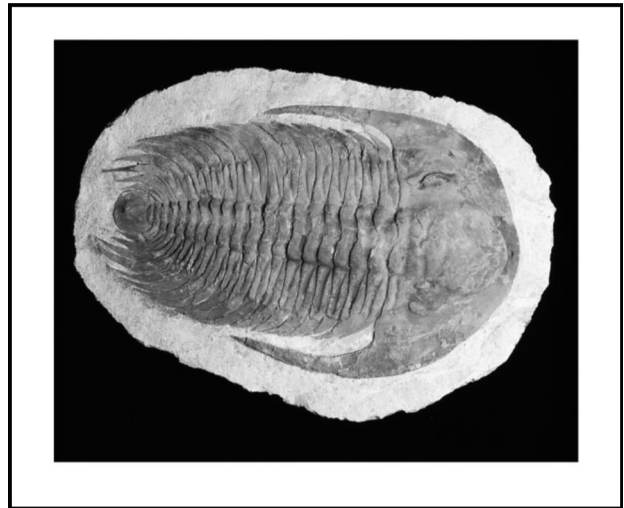


FOSSILS *(continued)*

Fossil 3



Fossil 4



Fossil 5

