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| Why are fossils important?  How does a fossil form?  What is the difference between molds and casts?  What are the characteristics of petrified fossils?  What are carbon films?  What are trace fossils?  How are remains preserved?  How does the fossil record prove the Earth changed over time?  Summary: | They help scientists infer how Earth’s surface has changed over the years and are clues to what the environment was like.  Most fossils form when living things die and are buried by sediments. The sediments slowly harden into rock and preserve the shapes of organisms.  A mold is hollow (cookie cutter). However, a cast is solid (cookie).  Petrified fossils are when the organism is turned to stone.  Carbon film is an extremely thin coating of carbon on rock which can preserve the delicate parts of plant leaves and insects.  Trace fossils are footprints.  1.Tar  2.Amber  3.Ice  1.Past environments  2.Climate  3.Evolution  4.Extinctions |