2.1 Identifying fossils

Knowledge and understanding

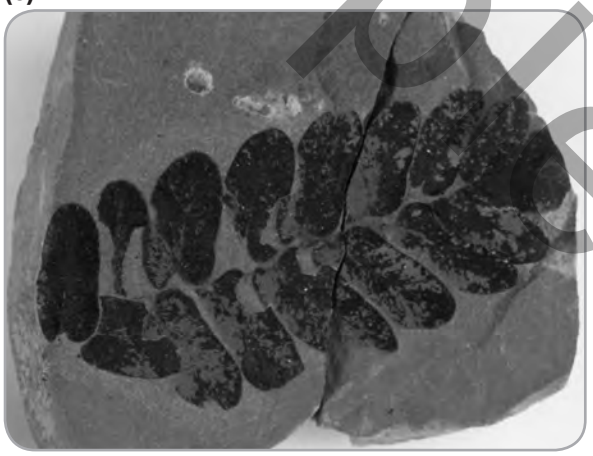
L Literacy WE Work and enterprise

Each of these photos shows a different fossilised organism.

(a)

(b)

(c)



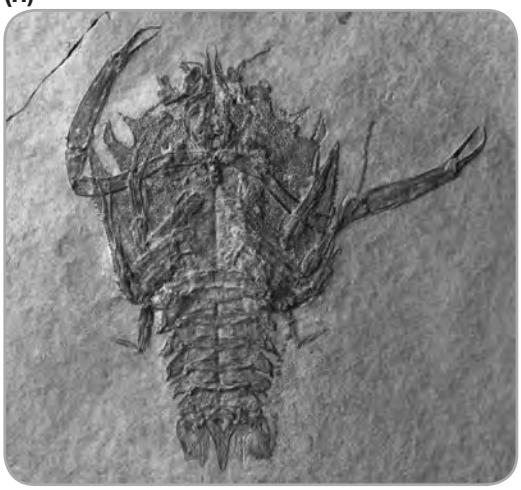
(d)

(e)

(f)

(g)

(h)



(i)

(j)

1 Identify each type of organism that has been fossilised. Choose the correct name from the box. The first one has been done for you.

bird/dinosaur	horse	✓ ray (fish)	seastar	beetle
frog	plant	dinosaur	crustacean (lobster)	turtle

(a) ray (fish)

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

(e) _____

(f) _____

(g) _____

(h) _____

(i) _____

(j) _____

2 Identify a fossil that is probably a carbon film.

_____

3 Identify the six vertebrate fossils.

_____

4 Name some types of fossils that are not shown in these photos.

_____

_____

HINT

Types of fossils include original fossils, replacement fossils, carbon film fossils, moulds and casts.

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5 Fossil **(j)** is a replacement fossil in which the bones have turned to silica, whereas fossil **(d)** is an original fossil in which the animal has been preserved by falling in a tar pit.

silica (n)
a mineral

preserve (v)
to keep; to save

tar pit (n)
a hole filled with thick, sticky oil

(a) **Explain** some differences in the way fossils **(j)** and **(d)** were formed.

(b) **Explain** what information you could obtain from fossil **(d)** about its original body chemicals that you could not obtain from fossil **(j)**.

6 Fossil **(g)** is one of the most famous fossils ever found. It belongs to an animal called *Archaeopteryx*. When it was first discovered, palaeontologists thought it was a dinosaur. But along with the bones, something else was fossilised. **Name** and **describe** this other feature you can see in the fossil.

HINT

Look closely at the marks around the limbs. What could they suggest?

7 **Explain** what is meant by the *fossil record*.