

# Fossil Find!

Although archaeologists are looking for artifacts, there are times that they unearth fossils during their excavations. Paleontologists look for fossils as well. There are 6 different types of fossils that we will be studying:

1) Trace Fossils



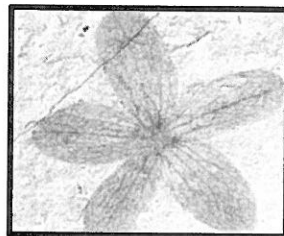
2) Molds



3) Casts



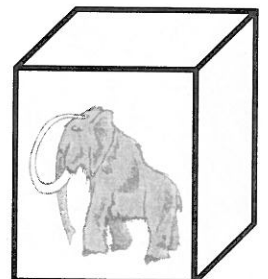
4) Carbon Films



5) Petrified Fossils



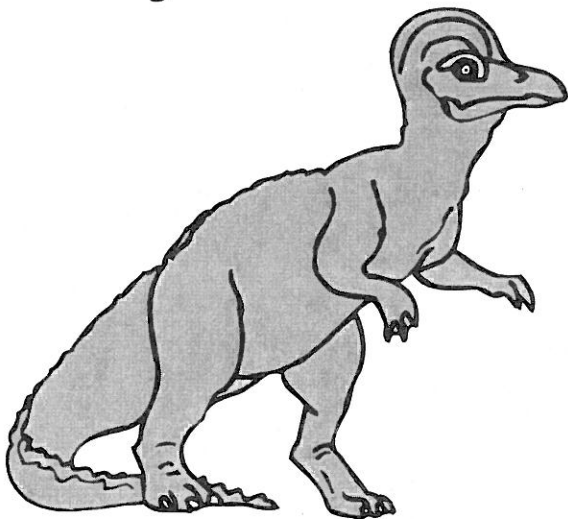
6) Preserved Remains



# Trace Fossils

## Trace Fossils:

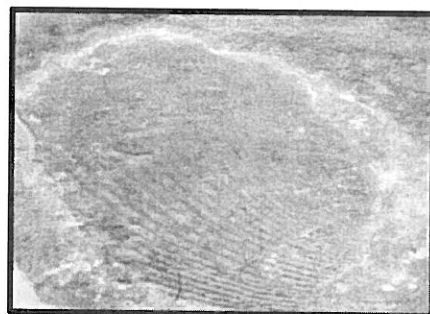
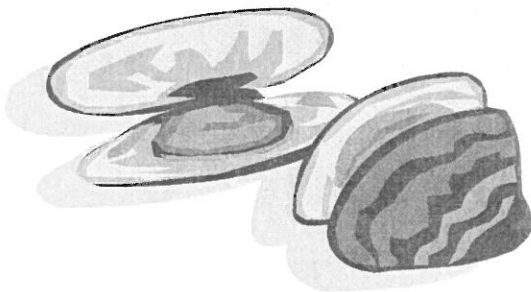
- These include animal tracks or footprints.
- Trace fossils occur when an animal steps in sand or mud.
- Then, over time, this footprint is buried in layers of sediment.



# Molds

## Molds:

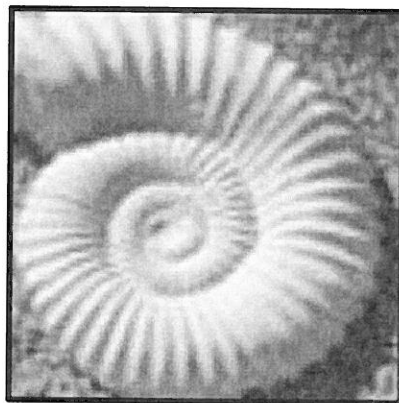
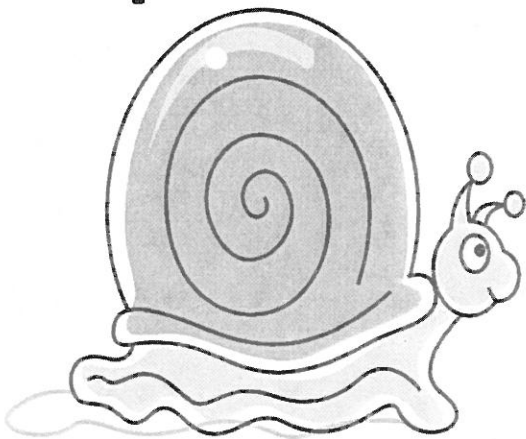
- These form when an animal's shell, teeth, bones, etc. become buried in sediment.
- Molds appear when the hard parts that are left eventually dissolve or decompose.
- Molds are what we call "negative" impressions.



# Casts

## Casts:

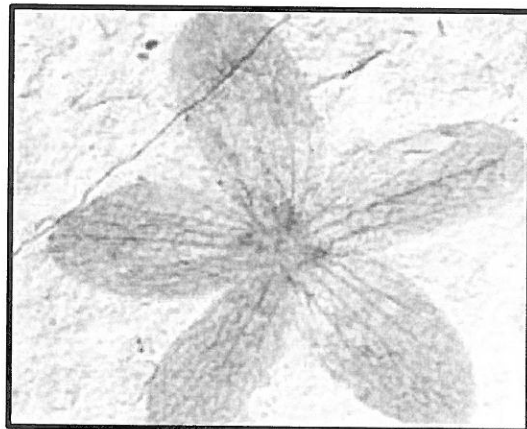
- Casts form as a result of molds.
- They occur when minerals and sediment fill a mold or a depression left by an organism.
- Casts are what we call “positive” impressions.



# Carbon Films

## Carbon Films:

- These form when an organism dies and breaks down.
- Eventually only the carbon remains from the living thing.
- This thin layer of carbon can at times still be seen.



# Petrified Fossils

## Petrified:

- *Petrified* means “turned to stone.”
- These fossils occur when minerals replace part or all of a former living thing.
- They can be the result of water seeping through sediment to reach a dead plant or animal and then evaporating.
- The remaining plant or animals literally becomes stone.



# Preserved Remains

## Preserved Remains:

1. Tar Pits—If an organism died in a tar pit, the tar would soak into its bones and preserve them from further decay.

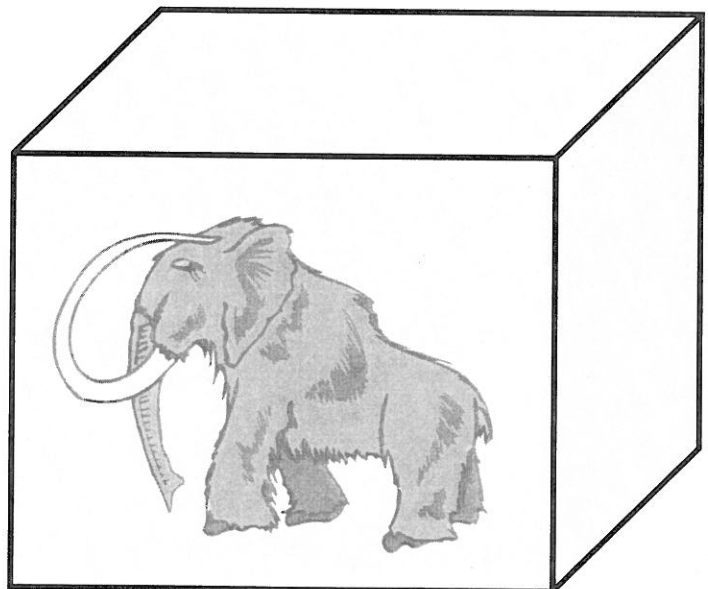
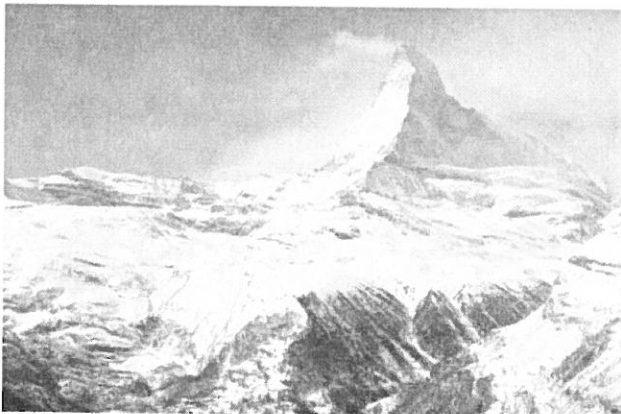




# Preserved Remains

## Preserved Remains:

2. Frozen in Ice—If an organism died in an icy region, often times the entire creature would be preserved in ice. Once a complete woolly mammoth was found in this condition!





# Preserved Remains

## Preserved Remains:

3. Amber Fossils—Organisms may have been trapped in resin or sap of trees. If the animal was unable to escape, more and more sap covered it. It then would harden and become an amber fossil.

