



FOSSIL IDENTIFICATION PUZZLES

Developed by Linda Roberts Grades 4-8

OBJECTIVES

Students will...

- Develop an understanding of fossils and their adaptation to the environment at that period of time.
- Be able to identify fossil types and where they lived.

MATERIALS

- Reference Books with Clear Pictures of Assorted Fossils
- Student Notebooks, 80 pages (Cat. No. **SB46968M**)
- 8½" x 11" Paper, pkg. of 500 sheets (Cat. No. **9733119**)

TEACHER PREP

Enlarge 5 or more fossil pictures so each fits on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper. Make enough copies for each group. Cut the pictures into 5 or 6 puzzle-shaped pieces. For each group, mix 5 fossil picture puzzles together.

ACTIVITY

- The students will look at the details of the fossils' characteristics to reassemble the fossils. Using reference books, the students will identify the name and time period for each of their fossils.
- Attach the assembled fossil to a page in the notebook and add its name and the time period in which it lived.
- List 3 physical characteristics for each fossil and where it lived (in the ocean, on land, etc.)

DISCUSSION

Share the name and time period for each of the fossils. How were you able to put together the complete picture?

Q: How do scientists identify fossils?

A: They look at the physical characteristics of the fossil as well as where it was found and its relationship to other fossils in the same area.

Q: Would you be able to identify the fossil if you had only 2 or 3 puzzle pieces?

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SB44733



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