

1.4.3. Finding Fossils.

Do you like to dig in the sand or dirt? Do you like to look for interesting things? Then maybe you'd like to be a fossil hunter.

A fossil is a part of a plant or animal that lived long ago. A dinosaur bone is a fossil. A rock can be a fossil too if it shows traces of plant life. Some of the oldest fossils are more than three billion years old. That's still pretty old.!

Many fossils are buried in the ground. Some fossils are discovered by accident. Workers might find fossils when they dig up the earth to build a new road. Other fossils are found by paleontologists. These are people who excavate important fossils. They use soft brushes to carefully sweep away the soil around the fossil. They don't want to damage it. Removing a fossil can take a long time.

Sue Hendrickson is well known for finding the fossils of a giant T. rex. She was looking for fossils in South Dakota when she found the bones. They were covered under sand and mud. People named the dinosaur Sue, after Sue Hendrickson. Sue the T. rex is now located at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. It measures forty-five feet from head to toe! It is more than sixty five million years old! Fossils can be found all around us. If you look hard enough, you may be able to find one yourself. What are you waiting for? Get your shovel and start digging!

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1. A dinosaur bone is a _____.
 2. _____ are people who excavate important fossils.
 3. Sue Hendrickson found fossils of the _____.
 4. Sue the T-rex is located at _____.