

Unit 5 Handout _____

Fossil Types Activity

Purpose: To formally identify the five types of fossils.

Instructions: You will again observe the different fossil pictures. This time, you will record specific data that geologists look for to determine which type of fossil a fossil is. You will be observing its texture, what part of the organism it is from, how many pieces there are, and what substance it is preserved in.

References: Use the following terms to help you.

Flat - fossil is very flat and looks like it is "printed" on the surface of a rock.

Imprint - a "stamp" of the organism pushed into a rock. (aka: impression)

3D - the entire fossil is handheld and is not embedded in a rock.

Part - the fossil is part of an organism (original or petrified)

Trace - the fossil is evidence of the organism but not a part of the organism

Petrified - the fossil is made of minerals, sediments, or rock.

Carbon Film Fossils			
Flat, Imprint, or 3D?	Part or trace of organism?	How many "pieces" to the fossil?	Preserved in rock/mineral, ice, amber, or tar?
Other observations?		Simple sketch	

Trace Fossils			
Flat, Imprint, or 3D?	Part or trace of organism?	How many "pieces" to the fossil?	Preserved in rock/mineral, ice, amber, or tar?
Other observations?		Simple sketch	

Original Remains Fossils			
Flat, Imprint, or 3D?	Part or trace of organism?	How many "pieces" to the fossil?	Preserved in rock/mineral, ice, amber, or tar?
Other observations?		Simple sketch	

Petrified Fossils			
Flat, Imprint, or 3D?	Part or trace of organism?	How many "pieces" to the fossil?	Preserved in rock/mineral, ice, amber, or tar?
Other observations?		Simple sketch	

Mold and Cast Fossils			
Flat, Imprint, or 3D?	Part or trace of organism?	How many "pieces" to the fossil?	Preserved in rock/mineral, ice, amber, or tar?
Other observations?		Simple sketch	