

Name: _____

Anthology Stories Fluency
Second Grade- Fossils

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Fossils Tell of Long Ago

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By: Alik

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Once upon a time a huge fish was swimming 16
around when along came a smaller fish. The big 25
fish was so hungry he swallowed the other fish 34
whole. The big fish dies and sank to the bottom of 45
the sea. 47

This happened ninety million years ago. How 54
do we know? 57

We know because the fish turned into stone. 65
The fish became a fossil. A plant or animal that 75
has turned to stone is called a fossil. 83

Scientists can tell how old stones are. They 91
could tell how old the fish fossil was. 99

How did the fish become a fossil? Most 107
animals and plants do not become fossils when they 116
die. Some rot. Others dry up, crumble, and blow 125
away. No trace of them is left. This could have 135
happened to the big fish. We would never know it 145
had live. 147

The Dinosaur Who Lived in My Backyard

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By: B. G. Hennessy

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There used to be a dinosaur who lived in my backyard. Sometimes I wish he still lived here.

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The dinosaur who lived here hatched from an egg that was as big as a basketball.

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My mother says that if you eat all your vegetables you'll grow very strong. That must be true, because that's all this dinosaur ate. I bet he ate a hundred pounds of vegetables every day. That's a whole lot of lima beans.

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This dinosaur was so heavy that he would have made my whole neighborhood shake like pudding if he jumped. He weighed as much as twenty pick-up trucks.

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My dinosaur had a very long neck so he could eat the leaves at the top of trees. If he still lived here, I bet he could rescue my kite.

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That's all I know about the dinosaur who used to live in my backyard.

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<u>Dinosaur Fossils</u>	2
By: Dr. Alvin Granowsky	6
We have learned all that we know about dinosaurs from their fossils. A fossil is what is left of a plant or an animal that lived long ago.	14 23 34
Fossils can be leaves, shells, eggs, or skeletons. Some fossils are hardened tracks or footprints left by a moving animal.	41 48 54
When a plant or animal dies, it can become covered with mud or sand. As time goes by, the plant or animal becomes covered by many layers of mud and sand. After thousand of years, the bottom layers harden into rock. The dead plant or animal also hardens into rock. This is how fossils are formed.	63 73 82 90 99 108 110
Any plant or animal can become a fossil. Animal fossils are usually hard parts of the body such as teeth, bones, or shells.	118 127 133
Sometimes an animal's whole body is frozen in ice or covered very quickly with river mud.	141 149

Why Did the Dinosaurs Disappear?

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By: Karen Sapp

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Once dinosaurs lived on the earth. Then they
disappeared or died out, as did many other animals,
including animals that lived in the sea and animals
that flew through the air. Many plants died too.

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Some scientists think that new kinds of
plants started growing because of changes in the
climate. Their idea is that these plants poisoned
dinosaurs that ate them. Then meat-eating
dinosaurs starved to death when they could not
find plant-eating dinosaurs to eat. Maybe small
animals stole and ate dinosaur eggs before they
could hatch.

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Many scientists think that the dinosaurs died
out because the earth became very cold. Most
dinosaurs could not live in very cold weather. They
did not have fur or feathers to keep them warm.
Dinosaurs were so huge they could not burrow into
the ground for warmth and protection.

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<u>Monster Tracks</u>	2
By: Barbara Bruno	5
Sand-cast your own fossil clues from a past when monsters roamed and left odd tracks and dinner crumbs in the prehistoric ooze. First gather some feathers, twigs, bones (fish bones are fun), seashells, stones, or small sharp rocks to imprint or embed in sand.	15 23 31 39 49 50
Along with this interesting assortment of objects, you'll also need enough plaster of Paris to fill a mold, sand for shaping the mold, and a container. A plastic-lined shallow cardboard box works well.	56 66 77 84
To form the mold you must think in reverse. Holes poked in the sand will stick out. Sunken areas, like footprints, must be built up in the sand. Textures and other features can be made by pressing different objects into the sand. Seashells, bones, and other objects to be left in the sand casting must be pressed facedown into the sand. That way they'll rise above the finished casting's surface. Half-buried things are interesting, too.	93 103 113 122 130 141 151 158 160

Let's Go Dinosaur Tracking

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By: Miriam Schlein

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More than 100 million years ago a big sauropod	16
walked by along a mud flat by the side of a lagoon.	28
The feet that made these footprints carried a 70-	37
foot-long 30-ton body. No wonder they sank so deep	48
in the mud!	51
We used to think all dinosaurs were very sluggish	60
and slow. Dinosaur tracks tell us this was not really so.	71
By studying tracks scientists now have ways to figure	80
out how fast different dinosaurs could run. Some,	88
they say, were pretty speedy.	93
Figuring speed is a new kind of dinosaur study.	102
And it's not very exact. Not all scientists "read" the	112
tracks in the same way. Some use different formulas.	121
And they come up with different opinions. So they	130
don't all agree exactly on how fast different dinosaurs	139
could run. But what we do know now is that	149
dinosaurs—at least some of them—could probably	157
move around much faster than we used to think they	167
could.	168