

# Fossils Lab

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Today in your lab, you'll visit each lab station and answer several questions about the organisms in question. Please make sure to follow all directions on the sheets.

## MAKING A CAST AND MOLD FOSSIL

1. In your playdough, you have an impression, and it then fills with glue.  
Is the Impression in your play dough a cast or mold? (circle one)  
Is the hardened glue in your play dough a cast or mold? (circle one)
2. What is the quality of your fossil, or what do you think it will be like? What made your item a good one or a bad one to fossilize?

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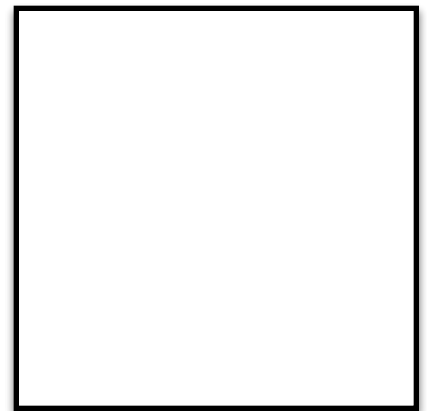
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## SPIRIFERID

3. Draw a picture of the spiriferid fossil to the right.
4. Plot the spiriferid fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letters Sp.



5. Is the Spiriferid a good index fossil? Why or Why not?

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ORTHO CERAS

6. Draw a picture of the Orthoceras fossil to the right.

7. Plot the Orthoceras fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letters O.

8. What type of fossil is the Orthoceras Fossil?

- a) Cast
- b) Permineralization
- c) Mold
- d) Carbonization Film

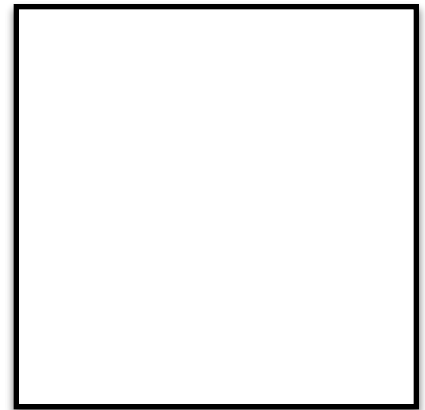
9. Is the Orthoceras a good index fossil? Why or Why not?

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SNAIL

10. Draw a picture of the Snail fossil to the right.

11. Plot the Snail fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letters Sn.

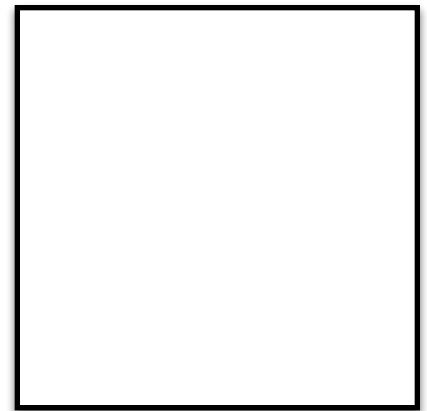
12. Is the Snail a good index fossil? Why or Why not?

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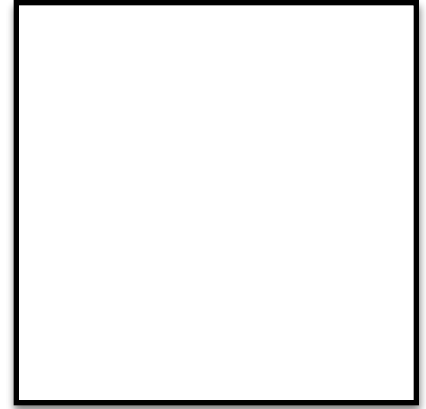


**SCLERACTINIAN CORAL**

13. Draw a picture of the Scleractinian coral fossil to the right.

14. Plot the Scleractinian fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letters Sc.

15. Is the Scleractinian a good index fossil? Why or Why not?



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**TRACE FOSSILS**

16. Are Trace fossils good to use as index fossils? Why or Why not?

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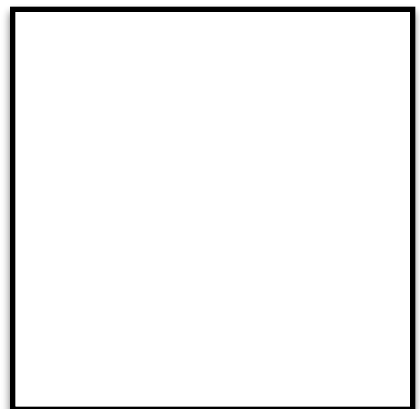
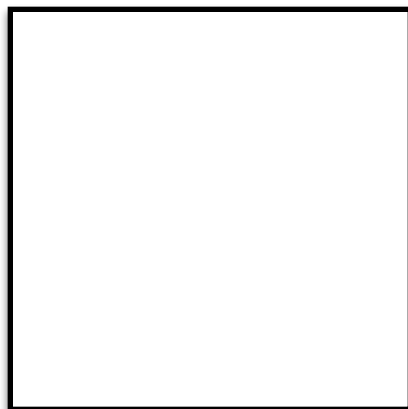
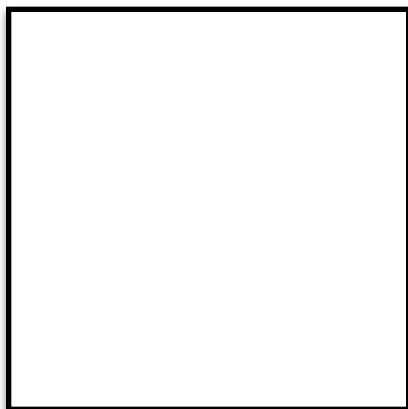
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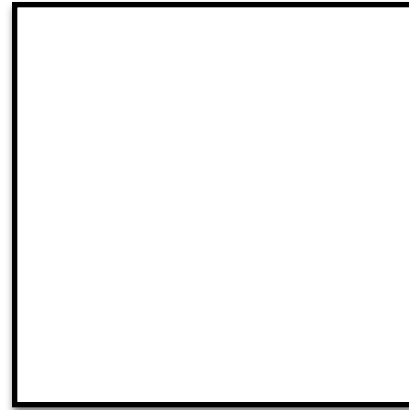
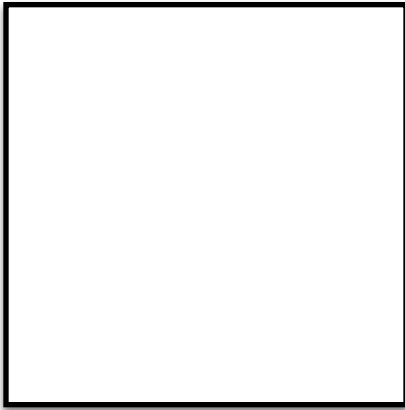
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**TRILOBITES**

17. Draw a picture of the Trilobite fossils below.





18. Plot the trilobite fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letters T1-5.

19. Are the trilobites good index fossils? Why or Why not?

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#### FERNS

20. Are the ferns good index fossils? Why or Why not?

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21. What do we know about the environment where the ferns were?

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22. Plot the fern fossil on the diagram of the rock layers using the letter F.

23. What type of fossil are the fern Fossils?

- a) Cast
- b) Permineralization
- c) Mold
- d) Carbonization Film

VERTEBRA

24. What do we know about the environment where the vertebra was?

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25. Explain why the vertebra is not useful as an index fossil.

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PETRIFIED WOOD

26. What do we know about the environment where the petrified wood was found?

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27. Are the petrified woods good index fossils? Why or Why not?

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28. Use the index fossils to determine which rock layers are the same age as one another. Connect them with a line.

29. Explain how the geologic histories of the 3 different areas may differ from one another. What happened in A and B that was different from C?

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30. Which of the fossils is the best index fossil? Explain.

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32. Put the different rock layers in order of age AS BEST YOU CAN starting with the oldest layer(s) on the bottom, and youngest layer(s) on the top. If multiple layers are the same age, or you cannot tell, put them next to each other.

33. What environment will create more fossils?    Terrestrial    Aquatic    (circle one)

