



For an organism to become a fossil, the conditions have to be just right. When most animals or plants die they decay or are eaten by another animal. Sometimes an organism will die and be quickly covered by sediment on land or under water. Over time many layers of sediment pack on top of the organism. The packed sediment turns to stone and the organism decays, leaving a mold of its shape in the stone. Eventually the fossil is exposed to the Earth's surface through weathering or excavation and it is discovered. By studying fossils scientists can determine: ① How and where they lived ② what they ate ③ the Earth's environment.

# HOW they are MADE

