

Fossils in Mississippi



What is a fossil??

Any remains, impression, or trace of a living thing from the past, such as a skeleton or a footprint is considered a fossil.



How do fossils form?

Fossils can form in many different ways. However, the most common way fossils form is whenever the animal remains are quickly buried under the ground and then minerals replace the remains. This process is known as permineralization.

Interesting Facts:

- Mississippi's state fossil is the Eocene whale.
- The oldest known fossil is 3.5 billion years old!
- The biggest known fossil is a dinosaur which was as tall as building!



Where do we find fossils?

There are many locations throughout the state where you can find fossils. There are even a couple spots right here on MSU's campus!

Why are fossils important?

Fossils are important because they tell us what type of animals and plants lived on earth in the past.