

Dinosaurs and Fossils



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Glossary

adaptation special body feature or behavior that helps an organism stay alive

bird warm-blooded vertebrate animal with wings and feathers that lays eggs and often can fly

body fossil fossil that shows what a plant or animal looked like

carnivore organism that eats only animals

cast fossil formed when a mold left by a living thing fills with minerals that harden

classify to sort things into groups based on ways that the things are alike

cold-blooded having a body temperature that is warmed or cooled by the surrounding air, water, or soil

dinosaur any of a group of vertebrate animals that lived on land between 225 and 65 million years ago

extinct no longer living anywhere on Earth

fossil preserved remains or traces of an organism that lived long ago

fossil record history of life on Earth as shown by fossils

herbivore animal that eats only plants

invertebrate animal without a backbone, or spine

life cycle series of stages that a living thing passes through during its life

mineral solid, nonliving substance found in nature; building blocks of rocks

mold fossil formed when the remains of a living thing leave a hollow shape in rock

omnivore animal that eats both plants and animals

paleontologist scientist who studies the history of life on Earth

petrified turned to rock

predator animal that hunts and eats other animals

prey animal that is killed and eaten by another animal

reptile cold-blooded vertebrate animal that has dry, scaly skin and lays eggs

scavenger animal that eats dead plants or animals that it finds

sediments particles of soil and rock that may be carried in water

sedimentary rock rock formed from layers of sediment pressed together

trace fossil fossil that shows a change that an animal made in its environment long ago, such as a footprint

vertebrate animal with a backbone, or spine

warm-blooded having a body temperature that stays the same, no matter what the surrounding temperature