

Directions: Fill in the missing words to help explain fossilization.

dissolves minerals feathers decay remains fossilization solid  
taphonomy sediment formed organism pressure buried

Fossilization, or \_\_\_\_\_, is the process that occurs when plant and animal \_\_\_\_\_ are preserved in sedimentary rock. Fossilization occurs after an \_\_\_\_\_ dies and only affects hard body parts, such as bones and shells. Soft flesh, scales, and \_\_\_\_\_ will not become fossils, although, imprints of these parts are sometimes made.

In order for \_\_\_\_\_ to occur three things must happen. First, an organism dies. The body is usually rapidly \_\_\_\_\_ through erosion, silt layering, or sinking into mud. Then, the body will \_\_\_\_\_.

Some fossils are formed by permineralization when \_\_\_\_\_ from "hard water" enter small pores and cavities of dead organisms, and harden. The \_\_\_\_\_ of being buried helps to turn the organism \_\_\_\_\_.

Natural molds are \_\_\_\_\_ when hard body parts, like shells, are buried in \_\_\_\_\_, such as mud or silt. Over time, the sediment hardens, and the shell