

Fossils



- Fossils are remains or trace of an ancient organism.



There are 5 main types of fossils



1. Petrified Remains



- **Organic material that is partially or fully replaced by minerals to become hard and rocklike.**





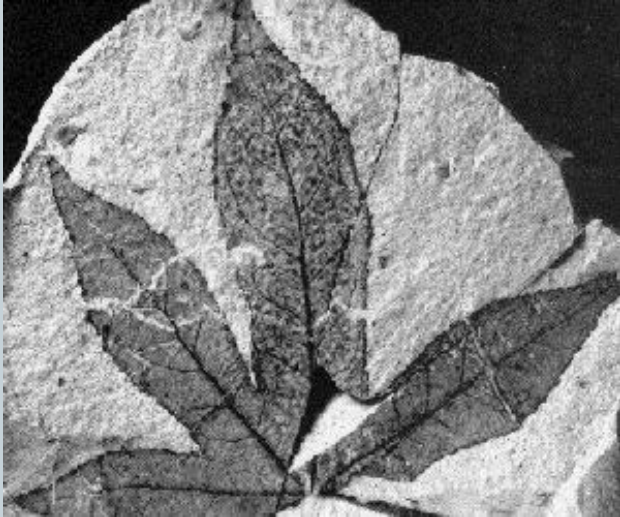
- Most common forms are bone and wood.



2. Carbonaceous Film



- A thin carbon film left behind as the organism decays forming an outline of it.



3. Molds and Casts



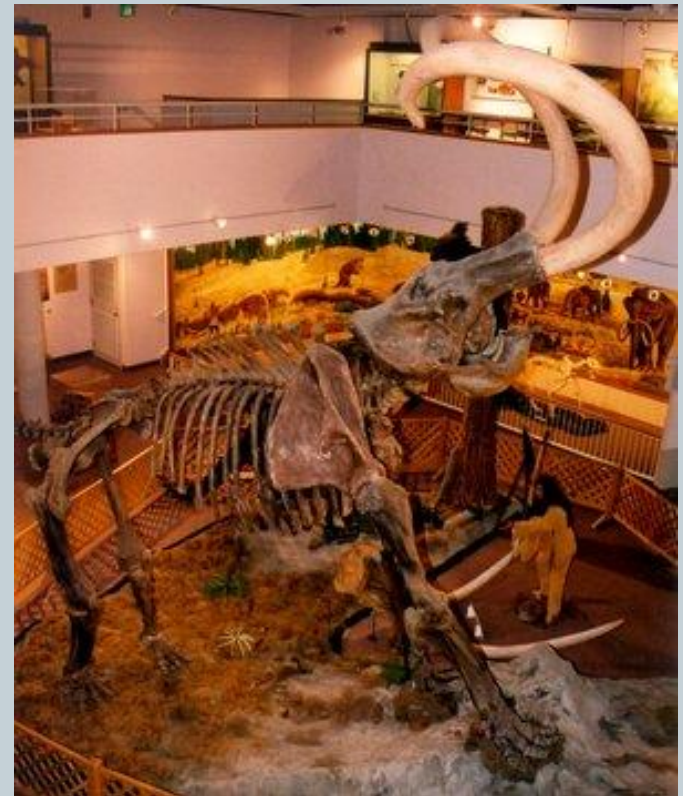
- **Mold**- formed when an object is placed into soft mud and is removed by **decomposition**
- **Cast**- a mold fossil fills up with **sediment**.



4. Original Remains



- Actual organisms or parts of an organism preserved in **amber**, **tar**, or **ice**.



5. Trace Fossils



- Evidence such as footprints, scratches, or waste material that shows that an organism was there.



Some tracks north of St George Utah



Where Do Fossils Form?

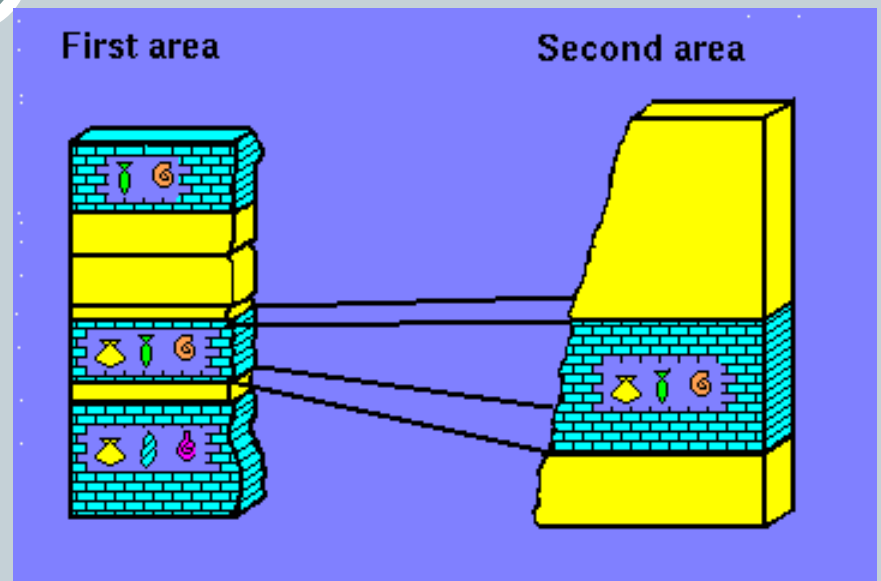


- Fossils generally form in **sedimentary** rock because when the organism dies it is covered by layers of sediment. This stops it from decaying.



Index Fossils- used to match rock layers.

- Two rock layers with same index fossils are probably the same age.



- Fossils are evidence of Continental Drift. The same type of plant and animal fossils are found on continents that are now separated.

