

Activity Guide for Students: Land of the Lost

Purpose: To examine and identify real fossils.

Procedural overview: Identify fossils using hand magnifiers or stereo microscopes and determine which era each fossil is from and how the fossils formed over time.

Materials:

- Fossils (provided by your teacher)
- Gloves
- 10–30x stereo dissection microscopes with top illumination
- Hand magnifiers
- Identification guides, books or websites to help you identify the samples (provided by your teacher)

Directions:

1. Identify a stepwise technique that you will use to observe and analyze the fossils provided by your teacher.
2. Study and identify each sample and write down your findings according to the Fossil Identifications form below. You can reproduce this form for as many fossils as you have. You can go in any order, but be sure to apply your analysis technique to each fossil.

Fossil Identifications Form:

Fossil 1

What is it?

Write your observations of the fossil.

What era(s) could it be from?

How was the fossil formed?

What is its closest living relative?

Fossil 2

What is it?

Write your observations of the fossil.

What era(s) could it be from?

How was the fossil formed?

What is its closest living relative?

Fossil 3

What is it?

Write your observations of the fossil.

What era(s) could it be from?

How was the fossil formed?

What is its closest living relative?

Fossil 4

What is it?

Write your observations of the fossil.

What era(s) could it be from?

How was the fossil formed?

What is its closest living relative?