FOSSILS STUDY SHEET

1. A paleontologist is a scientist who studies fossils and organisms that lived long ago. A fossil might be a bone, tooth, or shell.
2. The three types of fossils are: imprints, molds, and casts.
3. A fossil of a tree from long ago happens when the tree becomes “petrified.” The fossil looks like a tree, but it is as hard as a rock.
4. Some fossils form in hardened tree sap. Many insect fossils are preserved in amber. Old tree sap that has gotten very hard is called amber.
5. Fossils, the remains of once-living things, give scientists clues about the changing environment and living things of long ago. For example: Scientist found a fish fossil on the top of a mountain. This could mean that the land where the mountain is today was once under water.

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