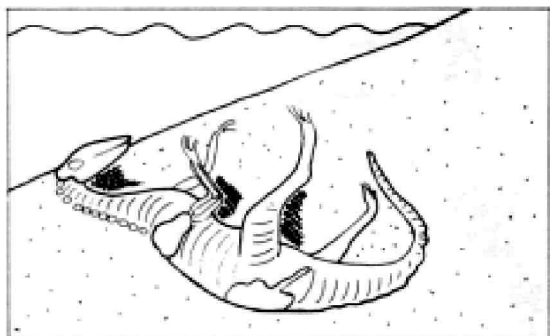
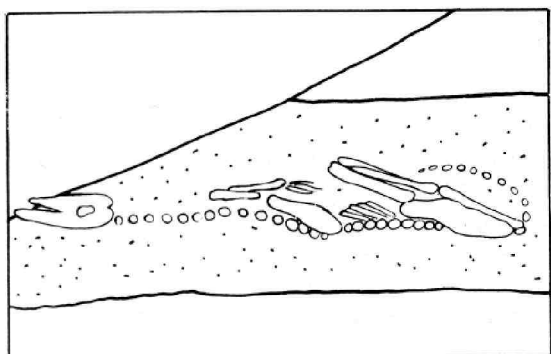


Over millions of years, layers of sediment built up on top of the skeleton. Eventually the enormous weight of these layers compressed and cemented the particles together, to form rock - mud into mudstone (shale), sand into sandstone, silt into siltstone. Throughout this time, water containing minerals seeped through the rocks into the bones and/or teeth, gradually causing major changes to occur.



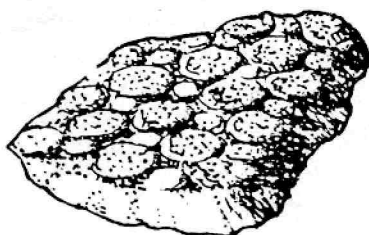
1. The fossil changes colour - it becomes the same colour as the surrounding rock.
2. The fossils becomes heavier.
3. The fossil contains new minerals.
4. The fossil may become **petrified** (turn into rock.).



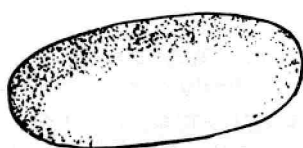
At the same time the layers of rock in the earth's crust were moving - rising, sinking, folding and buckling - taking the fossil-bearing layers with them. Eventually what had once been the floor of a lake or of the ocean became dryland, a wide plain or range of mountains.



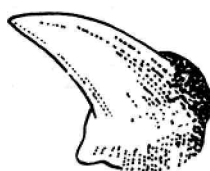
bone



impression of skin



egg

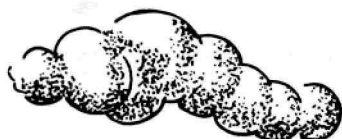


tooth

Weathering by wind, rain or wave action by the sea gradually wears away the rocks to uncover fossils. sometimes people uncover fossils when digging in mines or quarries or cutting new roads. If a fossil is not discovered soon after being uncovered, it will gradually weather way to dust, leaving no trace.



footprint

coprolite
(dropping).

Dinosaur fossils are not always bone. Other parts of the animal or anything it left behind - such as droppings (**coprolites**), eggs and footprints - are further examples. Skin is not often found but sometimes an impression of its out surface made on the surrounding mud can be preserved.