

Penelope the Paleontologist



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Rozzy Learning Company
4240 Duncan Avenue, STE. 200
St. Louis, MO 63110

www.rozzylearningcompany.com

Hi! I am Penelope, and I am a paleontologist.



A paleontologist is a scientist who looks for parts of plants and dinosaurs, called fossils.

These plants and animals lived a very long time ago. 1

As a paleontologist, I dig in the ground all over the world looking for fossils.



After I find a fossil, I clean it and store it in a safe place so I can analyze it later.



I've always wanted to be a paleontologist because I love going on scavenger hunts and finding clues.



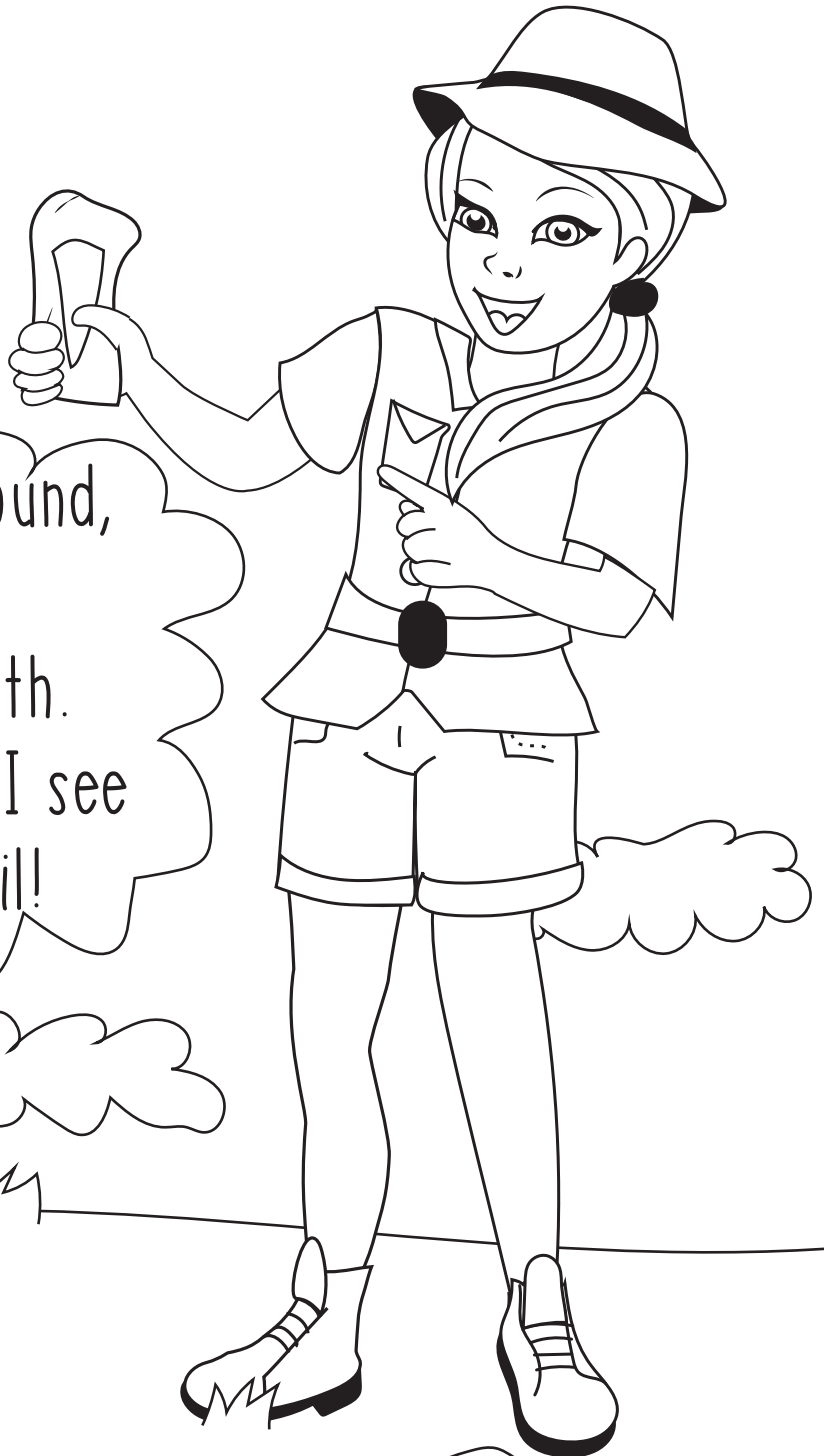
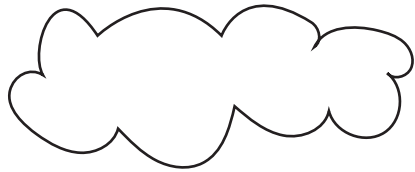
One of my first experiences as a paleontologist was finding fossils of ancient plants in my backyard.

Adventure 1: Digging in Canada

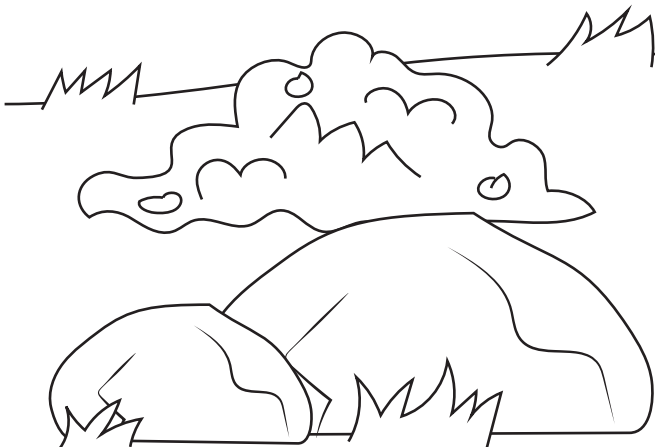
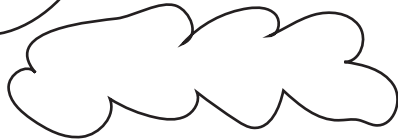


This week, I am going to Canada with a group of paleontologists. I am going to set up a dig site and look for dinosaur fossils.

When I arrive at my dig site, I begin carefully looking for fossils.



As I am walking around, I find a small bone that looks like a tooth. When I get closer, I see it's a dinosaur fossil!



I use a shovel to help me move dirt and rock that is around the fossils.

Then, I use a brush to carefully sweep away the rock and dust.



As I get closer to the fossil, I notice that there are more nearby!



I work with other paleontologists to uncover all of the fossils.

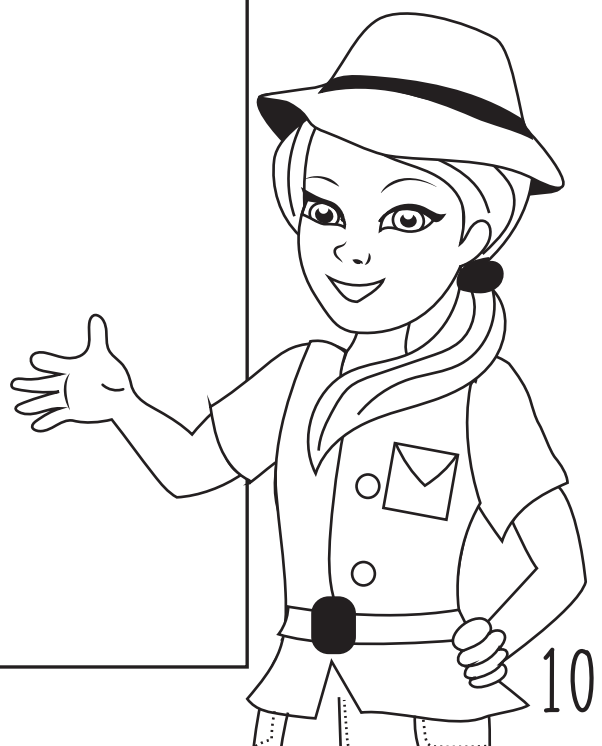
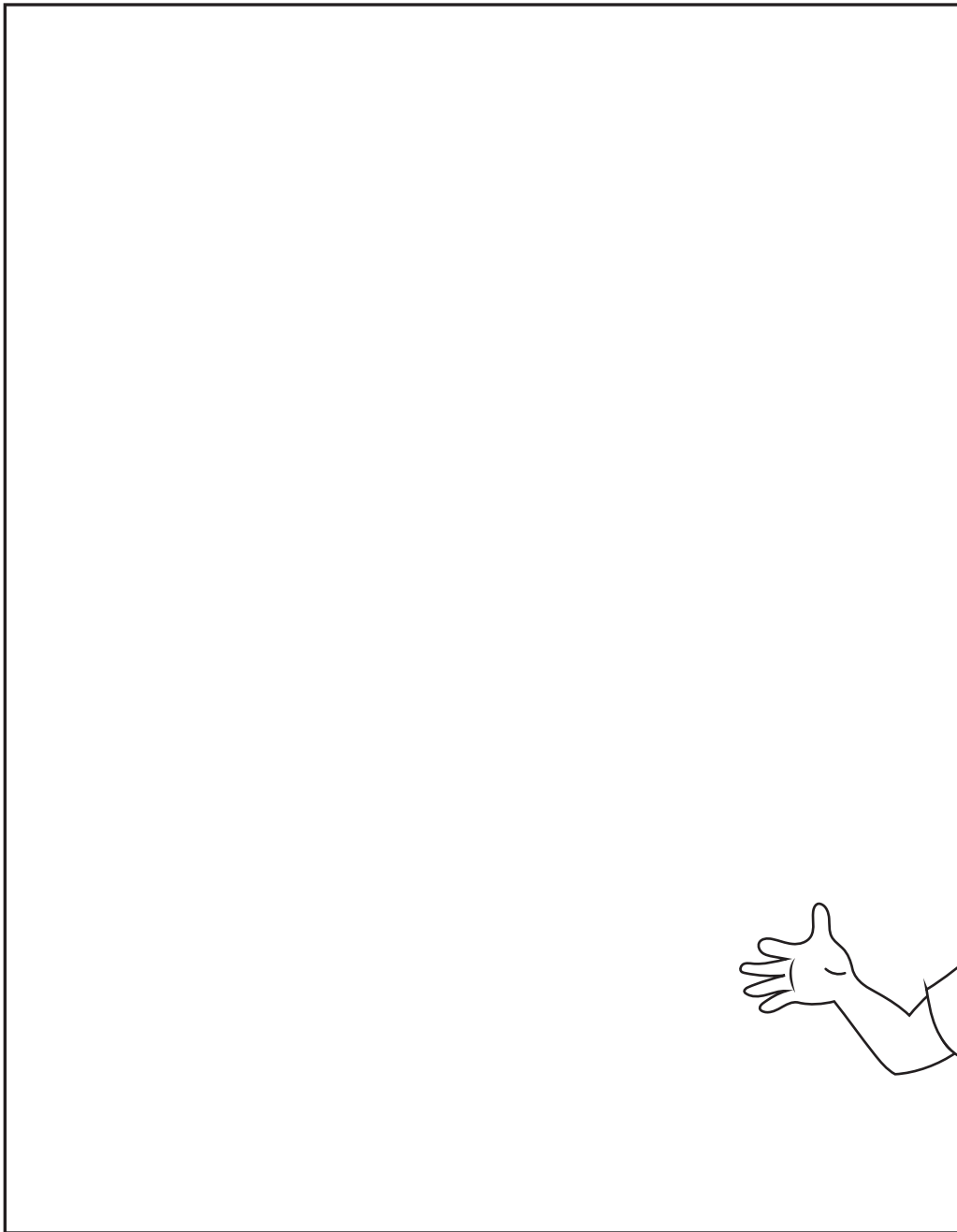
It takes many hours to carefully remove the giant fossil from the ground.



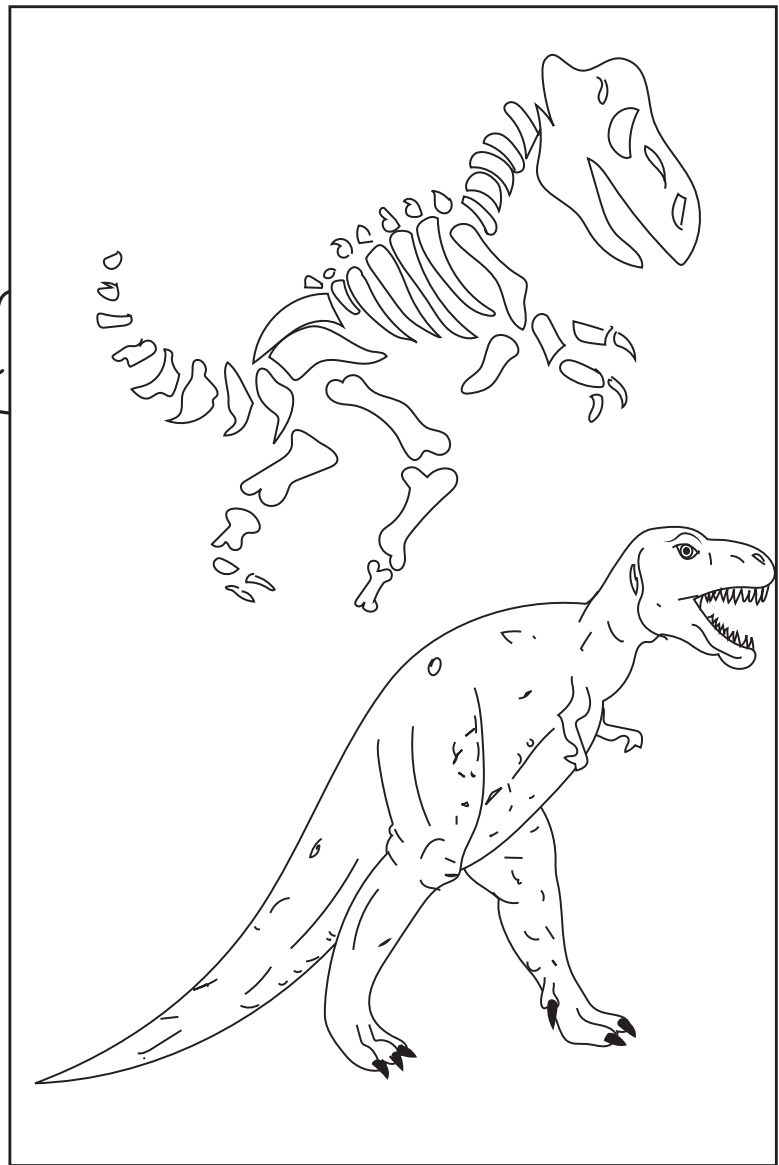
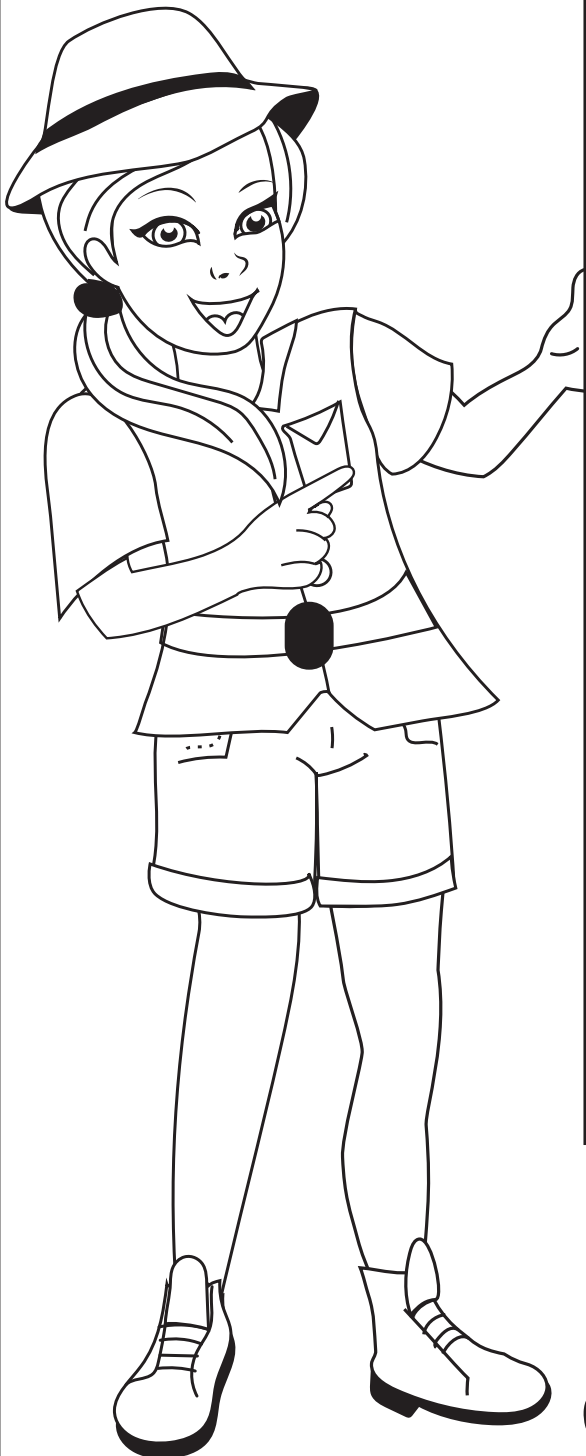
The next step is to clean off the fossil and identify what it is.

Can you help me identify the fossil?
What kind of dinosaur do you think is there?

Write or draw your ideas.



Thanks for helping me. This is a T-Rex fossil!
T-Rexes were massive dinosaurs that lived millions
of years ago.



Before I leave the dig site,
my last job is to tell others
about the fossils we found. 11

Can you help me fill out the Fossil Report?



Authors/ Paleontologists:

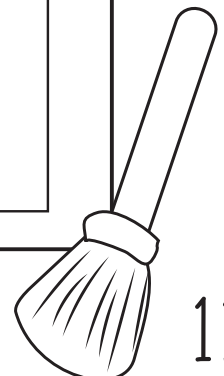
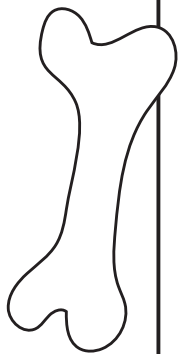
Penelope and

(write your name here)

Type of Fossil:

Size:

Location:



Adventure 2: Digging in Japan

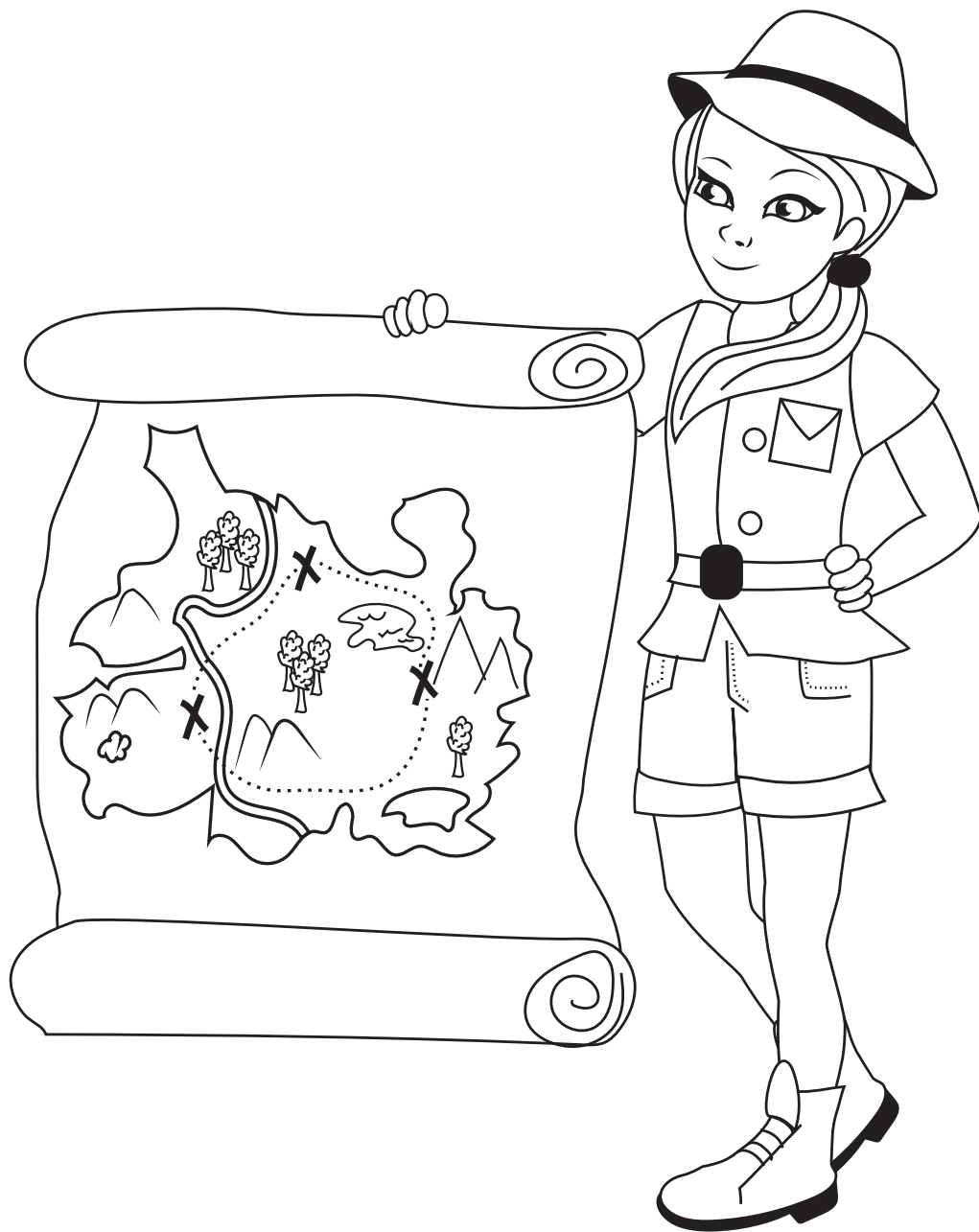
This week, I am flying to Japan to look for reptile fossils.



Before I can find any of the fossils, I make a plan for where I am going to dig.



I am visiting three dig sites this week.
This map helps me make sure I safely get
to all the dig sites!



I am not sure if these dig sites have fossils.
We will have to see!

I bring my journal to document my fossil hunt.
I write down where I am going, what tools I
use, and what fossils I find.





Now that I am at the first dig site, I head towards the nearest hill. I predict that the fossils will be at the bottom of the hill because over time they roll down the hillside.

I spend an entire day on the dig site looking around. I don't find a single fossil!



What do you think I should do next?

I want to keep looking. I don't want to give up yet.
I still may find a fossil at my next 2 sites.
I cross this site off my map because I know there
aren't any fossils there.



Now I am at the second site. I find a spot that looks like it may have a fossil. I see a bone sticking out of the dirt.



I start to carefully dig with my shovel.

I dig all the way to the rock and find fossils.
But they are only plant fossils, not reptile fossils! Can
you help me record my findings?

Write or draw a Fossil Report entry about today's dig.

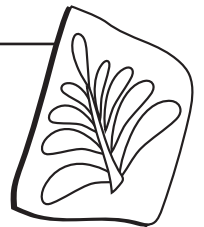
Authors/ Paleontologists:

Penelope and
(write your name here)

Type of Fossil:

Size:

Location:



Now, I am finally at my last dig site. This is my last chance to find a dinosaur fossil before I leave Japan.



Time to start digging!

I finally think I find a fossil!
I get out my shovel again and use a brush
to clean off the bones.



After cleaning the bonse, I realize the fossils belong to a giant lizard from thousands of years ago.

It's time to record my findings!
Can you draw a picture of the fossils I found?

Authors/ Paleontologists:

Penelope and

(write your name here)

Type of Fossil:

Size:

Location:



Thanks for going on my digs with me.
I found so many fossils, and I cannot wait to put them
in a museum where people can visit them.

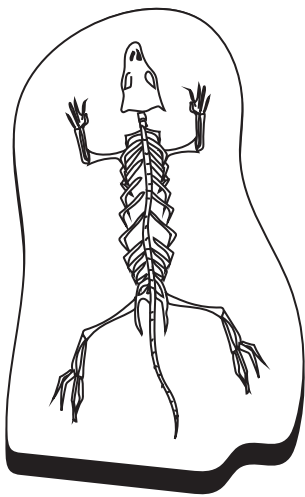
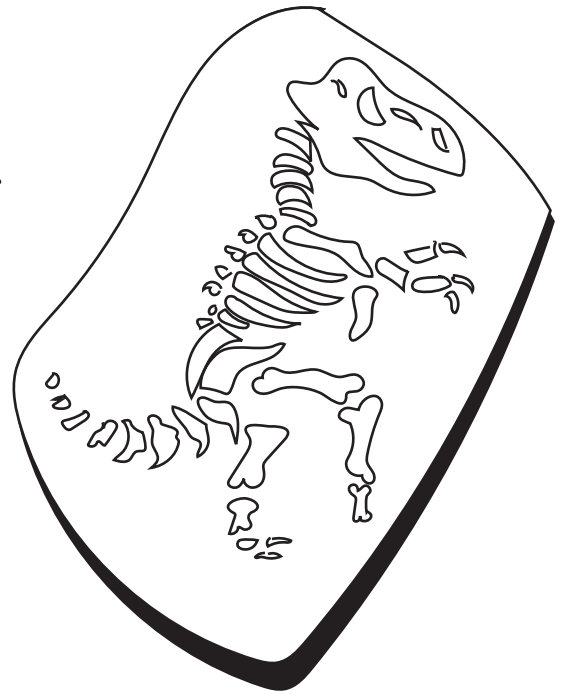


Here are some words you may have learned while reading:

Paleontologist: A scientist who studies dinosaur and plant fossils from millions of years ago

Fossils: Pieces of bone and plants from a long time ago

Analyze: Look at and study



Ancient: Very old

Massive: Really big

Reptile: A lizard or snake

Predict: Guess