

# Paleontologists

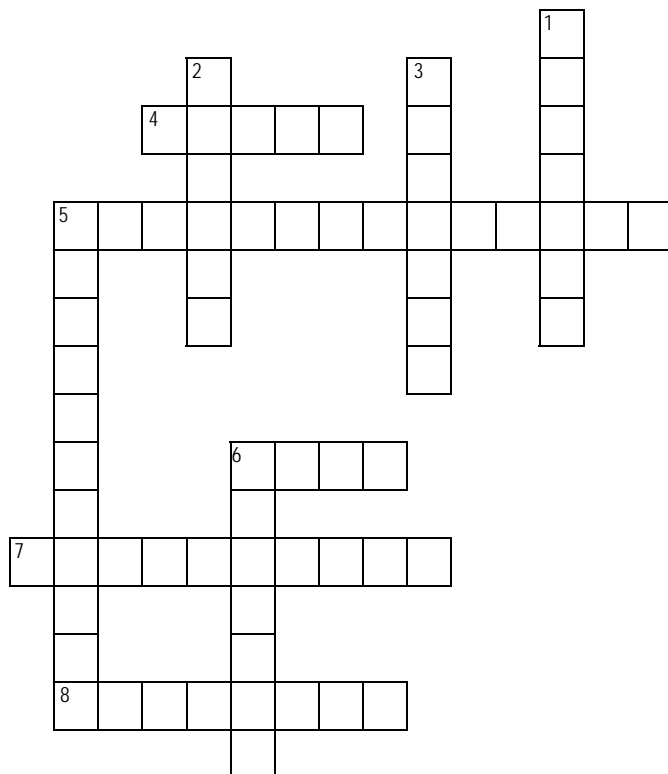
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Paleontologists (PAY-lee-on-TOL-o-jists) are scientists who are trained to look for bones or other fossils in places like stream beds or the sides of cliffs. When they find a fossil, they uncover it and paint it with clear shellac to seal and protect it. Photographs are taken when the fossils is still in the ground. The fossil is then wrapped in thin, moist tissue paper or cloth and covered with plaster of Paris. If a fossil is especially valuable or fragile, the entire piece of rock that it is embedded in is cut out. The fossil is then taken back to the laboratory, cleaned, and studied. Paleontologists slowly put together the skeleton of the dinosaur. Even in the best cases, scientist must sometimes guess how the bones relate to one another. In most cases, bones form several partially complete skeletons are necessary to complete a single, whole skeleton. When the paleontologist is finished with his or her research, the dinosaur skeleton will be displayed in a museum.



Paleontology overlaps with geology, the study of rocks and rock formations, as well as botany (\_\_\_\_\_), biology (\_\_\_\_\_), zoology (\_\_\_\_\_), and ecology - fields concerned with living creatures and how they interact. Modern paleontology sets ancient life in its contexts by studying how long-term physical changes of global geography ("paleogeography") and climate ("paleoclimate") have affected the evolution of life, how ecosystems (living and nonliving components) have responded to these changes, affecting today's patterns of biodiversity.



## Down

1. Sometimes fossils are \_\_\_\_\_, or easily broken.
2. Where you can go to see dinosaur bones.
3. Fossils are painted with this to protect them.
5. Scientist take \_\_\_\_\_ of where the fossils are found.
6. Fossils are covered with \_\_\_\_\_ of Paris.

## Across

4. Sometimes paleontologists have to \_\_\_\_\_ about fossils.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is trained to look for fossils.
6. Fossils teach us about the \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Place where fossils are cleaned and studied.
8. Fossil bones are put together to make a whole \_\_\_\_\_.