

Chapter 30

Use with Section 2

ENRICHMENT**Early Earth History****How can you make a “fossil”?****Materials**

paper towels
 heavy books
 baking soda
 stems, leaves, flowers, or other organic material

Procedure

1. Make a stack of 4 or 5 squares of paper toweling.
2. Sprinkle the top paper towel with baking soda.
3. Lay organic material flat on the baking soda.
4. Cover the organic material with a thin layer of baking soda. Then place another 4 or 5 squares of paper toweling over it.
5. Place a pile of heavy books on the paper toweling. Leave the books undisturbed for 2 or 3 days.
6. Remove the books. Carefully remove the upper layers of toweling and gently shake off the top layer of baking soda.

Analyze

1. Describe the “fossil” created by this experiment. Include color, shape, and similarity to the original organic material in your description. _____

2. Explain why this is not a true fossil. _____

3. What is the purpose of the baking soda? _____
4. What material or action in the formation of true fossils is represented by the books? _____

Conclude and Apply

5. If the material had been buried in mud, what would eventually have happened to the tissue of the organic matter? _____

6. How would your experiment differ if you placed a piece of seashell instead of a leaf between the layers of paper toweling? Explain your answer. _____

