



### Exercise: 1

**Instructions:** Taphonomy is the study of the process of fossilization. Fossils are the remains of past life forms. Scientists can learn a lot about past life forms by studying fossils. However, very few things form fossils because conditions have to be right in order for fossilization to occur. Use your knowledge and the Digital Atlas to answer the following questions:

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1. What is paleontology and how it is different from archaeology or anthropology?
2. How old must a sample be, before it can be considered a fossil?
3. What conditions favor the formation of fossils? How might this cause the fossil record to be biased?
4. Describe three different methods of fossilization.
5. Describe the difference between a fossil and an artifact.
6. On the top of the page, click on the fossil of the Horn Coral. Of the four basic ways fossils are preserved mentioned in the Digital Atlas, what do you think this is an example of?