Fossils are the remains of ancient life forms that once lived on the Earth’s surface.

Fossils may be invertebrates (animals without a backbone), vertebrates (animals with a backbone), and remnants of plant material.

Fossils (trace fossils) also include the imprints, tracks or traces of animal activity.

The majority of fossils in Arkansas are marine invertebrates such as echinoderms, mollusks, brachiopods, bryozoan and coral.

Shark, dinosaur, mosasaur, mammoth and mastodon fossil remains have been discovered in Arkansas.

Fossils are most often found in sedimentary rocks.

Since about 99 percent of Arkansas has sedimentary rocks at the surface there is a high potential for finding fossils.

Fossils are important to scientists because they indicate the environments in which they lived and can be used to date the rocks in which they occur.

For more information visit our website: www.geology.ar.gov