





## Photo Quiz

Have a guess at what it  
is that we are looking at?

Maybe it's:

- > a loaf of bread
- > a rock
- > a sleeping caterpillar
- > an exotic fruit

Answer:

It's between 6 to 8 million  
years old and it's a .....

fossil of an elephant tooth!

## Notes

### What are fossils?

- > Fossils can form in different ways, but some fossils form when a living thing dies and gets buried.
- > Over time, the soft parts get eaten by bacteria or other organisms.
- > The soft parts break down, and the hard parts, such as shells, teeth, bones, or claws, are left behind.
- > Over millions of years, layers of sediment pile on top of these remnants, creating pressure, which helps turn the lower layers into rock.
- > Water can seep into the area and bring in minerals that slowly replace the hard parts and create a slow chemical change that turns the hard parts into a fossil.
- > Slowly, erosion causes the top layers to wear away and the fossil can be found.
- > Many fossils are found in riverbeds or on cliff sides, where water has eroded an area for thousands of years.

### Did you know?

- > Abu Dhabi Emirate has the richest exposure of fossil deposits in the Arabian Peninsula.
- > Scientists date these deposits to between 6–8 million years ago.
- > At that time Abu Dhabi resembled modern day East Africa,
- > The land featured giant rivers sweeping through a savannah-like landscape providing opportunities for a wide variety of animals like:
  - > Elephants
  - > Giraffes
  - > Crocodiles
  - > Catfish
  - > Hyenas
  - > Sabre-tooth cats
  - > Hippopotami
  - > Antelopes
  - > Turtles
  - > Hipparion (an ancient three-toed horse)
  - > Badgers
  - > Ostriches
- > These animals descendants no longer live in the region today.