

COPROLITES



A coprolite is fossilized poo. It is a trace fossil. It can help scientists understand what a fossil animal ate long ago.

This fossil may have come from a turtle. Scientists have studied fossil feces from snails to dinosaurs and even ancient cats and giant sloths.

Fossil feces also tell scientists that an animal was in an area, even though fossils of the animal itself may not be found.

There is a cave in the Grand Canyon of Arizona that contained so many well-preserved giant sloth coprolites that they caught fire and smoldered for years.