

HOW TO USE THE MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

Slide number

67

Does the fossil wish to pursue a career in paleontology?

✓ **YES** SLIDE 82

X NO SLIDE 78

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INSTRUCTIONS

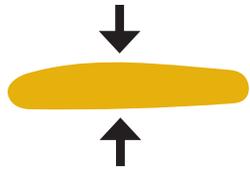
- 1 Read the question. Observe the fossil. Choose your answer.
- 2 Turn to the slide number next to the answer you chose to keep going.
- 3 If you make a mistake, this circle tells you which slide number you just came from.

ADVANCED VERSION

MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

1

Is the fossil flat?



✓ YES SLIDE 2

X NO SLIDE 4



MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

2

Does the fossil have a line of holes or pegs along one edge?

✓ YES SLIDE 5

X NO SLIDE 3



MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

3

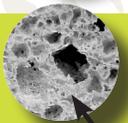
Which best describes the fossil?



Smooth texture

IT IS THIN WITH SMOOTH EDGES.

SLIDE 6



IT IS THICK AND THE EDGES HAVE A SPONGY TEXTURE.

SLIDE 36

Spongy texture



MICROFOSSIL ID GUIDE

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Is part or all of the fossil shiny or smooth like glass?

✓ YES SLIDE 7

X NO SLIDE 12



This piece of obsidian is an example of a smooth, shiny texture.



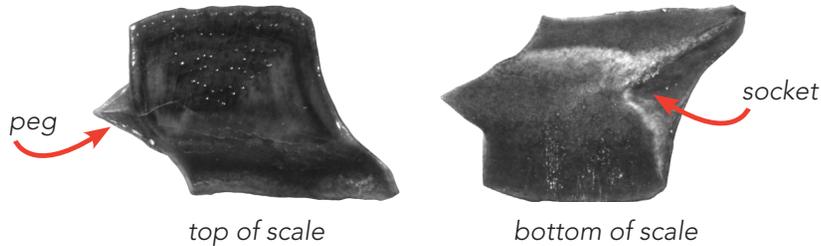
HOLOSTEAN SCALE

49

SORT INTO: FISH SCALES



Holostei are bony fish. Their scales have a smooth, shiny top side and a dull underside. Holostean fish scale fossils often break, so they aren't always a clear rhombus shape.



These scales slot together. The triangular peg on one scale nestles into the tiny socket of the next.

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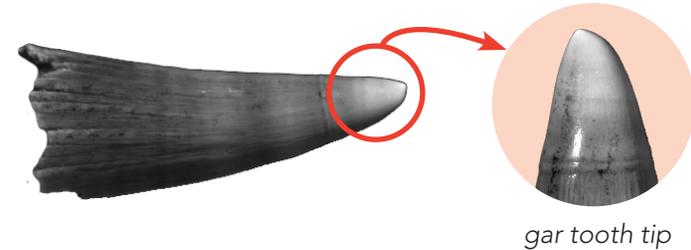
GAR TOOTH

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SORT INTO: OSTEICHTHYES



Gar teeth have grooves and ridges running up and down their sides. Under close magnification, the tip of a gar tooth is slightly see-through.



Fish teeth are loosely attached to the jaw. Fossil fish teeth often break off and are found separate.

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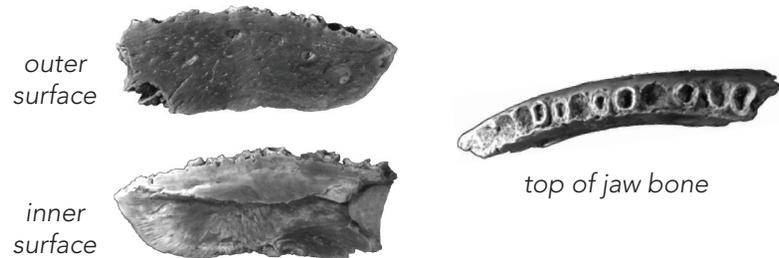
BONY FISH JAW

51

SORT INTO: OSTEICHTHYES



This jawbone came from a bowfin or other bony fish. It may have peg-like teeth attached to it, or may only have a row of empty sockets where teeth once were.



Fish teeth are loosely attached to the jaw. Fossil fish teeth often break off and are found separate.

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GAR SKULL BONE

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SORT INTO: OSTEICHTHYES



The texture of this fossil shows that it came from a gar fish. The bumpy top surface of a gar skull bone has a special shiny coating unique to gar.



Gar are still around today. There are seven species currently living on Earth.

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