

Rapid Preservation of Soft-Bodied Fossils

Organisms without hard body parts rarely form fossils, but decompose quickly. Fossilization of soft-bodied organisms is evidence of rapid burial and preservation. The abundance of fossils, and the existence of bone beds and fossil graveyards point to conditions in the past that differ from those of today.



Fossil worm, *Ottoia tricuspidata*, from the Burgess Shale of Canada

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