

## Extra Support Guided Reading - Week 6

Read through the Article below, answer the questions on the following page and mark your answers which are on the page after that.

# Fossil Hunting

Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that have been preserved inside rocks. Some fossils are many millions of years old.

The best tools for fossil hunting are a good pair of eyes, as most of the time the fossils are loose among the stones on the beach.

Special geological hammers can be used to gently split open some of the rocks to reveal fossils, but you need to know exactly which kinds of rocks contain fossils. Always wear safety glasses as small chips of rock can damage your eyes.



Here is a list of some of the equipment:

- **Tide times book** — to see when it is safe to fossil hunt
- Sturdy plastic bags to put fossils in
- Old newspaper to wrap up delicate finds
- Mobile phone
- Camera
- Safety glasses and geological hammer (optional)
- A notebook and pen to record your finds

If you find something unusual or interesting it is always worth getting an expert's opinion. Take the fossil into a local museum or **heritage centre** where it can be properly looked at and if it turns out to be something of scientific interest you could make the news headlines!

An abridged extract from [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

**tide times book**

a book that tells you the time of high and low tide each day

**heritage centre**

a special type of museum

Remember to write your answers in full sentences where possible.

1 If someone has a “good pair of eyes” they are (circle one):

pretty      observant      clever      sensible

1 mark

2 All rocks contain fossils. Is this true or false?

.....

1 mark

3 Why do you think the plastic bags need to be “sturdy”?

.....

1 mark

4 Which word suggests that fossils can break easily?

.....

1 mark

5 Why should you take an interesting or unusual find to a museum?

.....

.....

2 marks

6 Why do you think the author used bullet points in this text?

.....

.....

2 marks

7 Would you like to go on a fossil hunting trip?  
Explain your answer.

.....

.....

2 marks

Total  
out of 10

Mark your answers and correct any mistakes you've made by rereading the text.

## Answers

1. observant
2. false
3. E.g. So that they don't break when you put sharp or heavy rocks and fossils in them.
4. delicate
5. E.g. So that an expert can look at it and tell you if it is an important scientific find.
6. E.g. To make the list of equipment stand out from the rest of the text.  
It also helps to make the list easier to read.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because it would be fun to go to a beach and look for fossils. I would be really excited if I found a fossil and I would enjoy taking it to a heritage centre to learn more about it.

