

# Types of Fossilization

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- It is very uncommon for soft organic tissue to be preserved in a fossil. However, there are a few exceptions.
  - Insects preserved in ancient tree sap called **amber** have been preserved perfectly.
  - Mammoths and Neanderthals have been found preserved in glaciers, leaving intact DNA evidence.
- The most common method of fossilization is **premineralization**, which occurs when organisms are buried in sediment. The water deposits minerals into the empty spaces of the organism, producing a fossil.
- A **mold** can form when a bone or a shell dissolves and leaves behind an empty space in the shape of the material. A **cast** is formed when a mold is filled with sediments later on.
- **Replacement** is when a bone or a shell dissolves, and is replaced by a different mineral.
- **Compression** is when remains are compressed by high pressure, leaving behind an imprint.

### Study Tip

Well-preserved fossils are found buried deep in the soil, where they are protected from erosion.



*A well preserved fossil is one that preserves much of a former organism's structure.*

## Concept Check

- What are the five different types of fossilization?