

Context Clues: Definition and Restatement

Directions: Read the following paragraph. Pay attention to the **bold** words and their **context clues**. Then answer the questions below.

(1) **Paleobotany** can be defined as the study of plants that existed long ago—in the age of the dinosaurs, for example. (2) To study these plants, **paleobotanists** (the scientists who study ancient plants) find and examine evidence of past life called fossils. (3) Plant fossils are typically **preserved**, or kept intact, when plants are buried under tons of sand and mud. (4) Under great pressure, the sand and mud become rock, the plants **decompose**, or rot, and the fossils carry an imprint of the plant. (5) Then minerals seep into the fossil, creating a precise **replica**—an exact copy—in stone.

1. What context clues in Sentence 1 help you determine the meaning of the word *paleobotany*?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>can be defined as</i> b. comma 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. comma and dash d. dash and <i>age of the dinosaurs</i>
---	--
2. What is the meaning of the word *paleobotany*?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the study of minerals b. the study of the age of the dinosaurs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. the study of plants that existed long ago d. scientists who study ancient plants
--	--
3. What context clue in Sentence 2 helps define the word *paleobotanist*?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. comma b. parentheses 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. ancient plants d. fossils
--	---
4. According to Sentence 4, *decompose* means to _____
5. According to sentence 5, a *replica* is _____
6. Based on the context clues in the passage, write a definition of *fossil*.