

**Aim:** The flood created most of the fossils that we find today and also the coal and oil deposits.

Do you know what happens when something that was alive, like a plant, dies?

It rots and turns into dirt; the Bible even says in Genesis 3:19 that when a person dies their body returns to dust, and that is true of all types of living things; as long as there is moisture, air, and warmth, bacteria change what was once a living thing back into dirt.

But sometimes when one of these things is missing something special happens and the body of the plant or animal is preserved or not changed completely. When scientists can see something left from a plant or animal, even if it's just the shape of it, they call it a fossil.

- If it is extremely cold – explorers have found frozen mammoths up near the north pole.
- If it is really dry – a body can be mummified. The Egyptians used to dry out the bodies of the Pharaohs to preserve them; this worked well for them because Egypt is a naturally dry place.
- Sometime part or all of an animal's body can be preserved if it is covered in tar or an insect's body might be saved if it got covered in certain types of tree sap soon after it died.
- Sometimes animals die in lava. The lava hardens into rock and then when the body finally rots away it leaves a hole in the rock the shape of the body.
- Sometimes an animal will be buried in mud or something that stops the air, and slows the rate of decay. Like with lava, the rock forms around the body but then minerals and water slowly soak in and either help to preserve the body or take its place; the minerals then become solid, forming a different rock in the shape of the animal's body or sometimes there will just be the shape of its skeleton.

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Plants can also be fossilised just like animals. But something else can also happen to the plants. When plants lots of plants are buried in certain types of mud so they don't rot properly, instead of being broken down into dust the plants turn into what is called peat. In some countries they dig the peat out of the ground and dried out and used instead of wood for fires. When peat is buried underground so that it is compressed or squashed and heated, it dries out and turns into coal. It is called brown coal when it is still a bit wet and black coal when it is very dry.

Most scientists believe that the coal we use today was formed slowly over millions of years with layer after layer of trees dying and being covered by mud.

But scientists who believe what the Bible says about creation and the flood, say that the flood destroyed millions of trees, and then buried them, and these trees are the ones that formed most of the coal we use today. Some creation scientists have even made their own coal using clay-mud, dead plants, and heat.

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Did you know that oil is made from the same stuff that coal is? Different amounts of pressure, heat and moisture affect whether coal, oil, called crude oil, or even natural gas will be formed. Crude oil is then separated into petrol, diesel, jet fuel, kerosene, LPG and many other useful things.

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The more I learn about the flood, the more I realise just how much the flood changed the world. And I'm really glad that I believe that God is in control of the world.

The following websites and books have information about fossils, coal and oil:

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/what-are-fossils>

<http://fossil-fuel.co.uk/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/02/18/3691317.htm>

"Surprise Witness" by Jonathan Gray

[http://www.creationworldview.org/articles\\_view.asp?id=51](http://www.creationworldview.org/articles_view.asp?id=51) Rapid formation of coal and oil