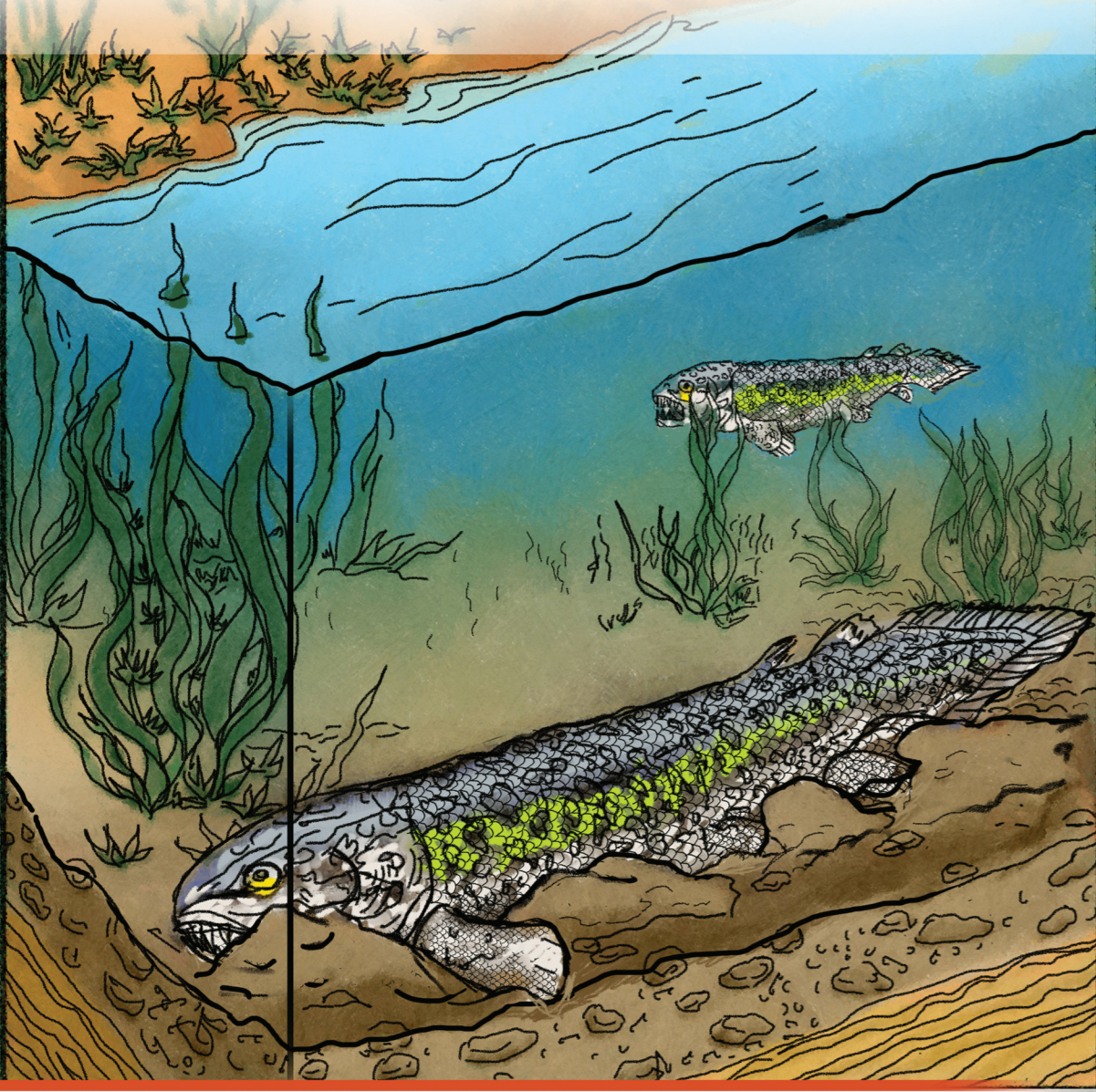


FOSSILS

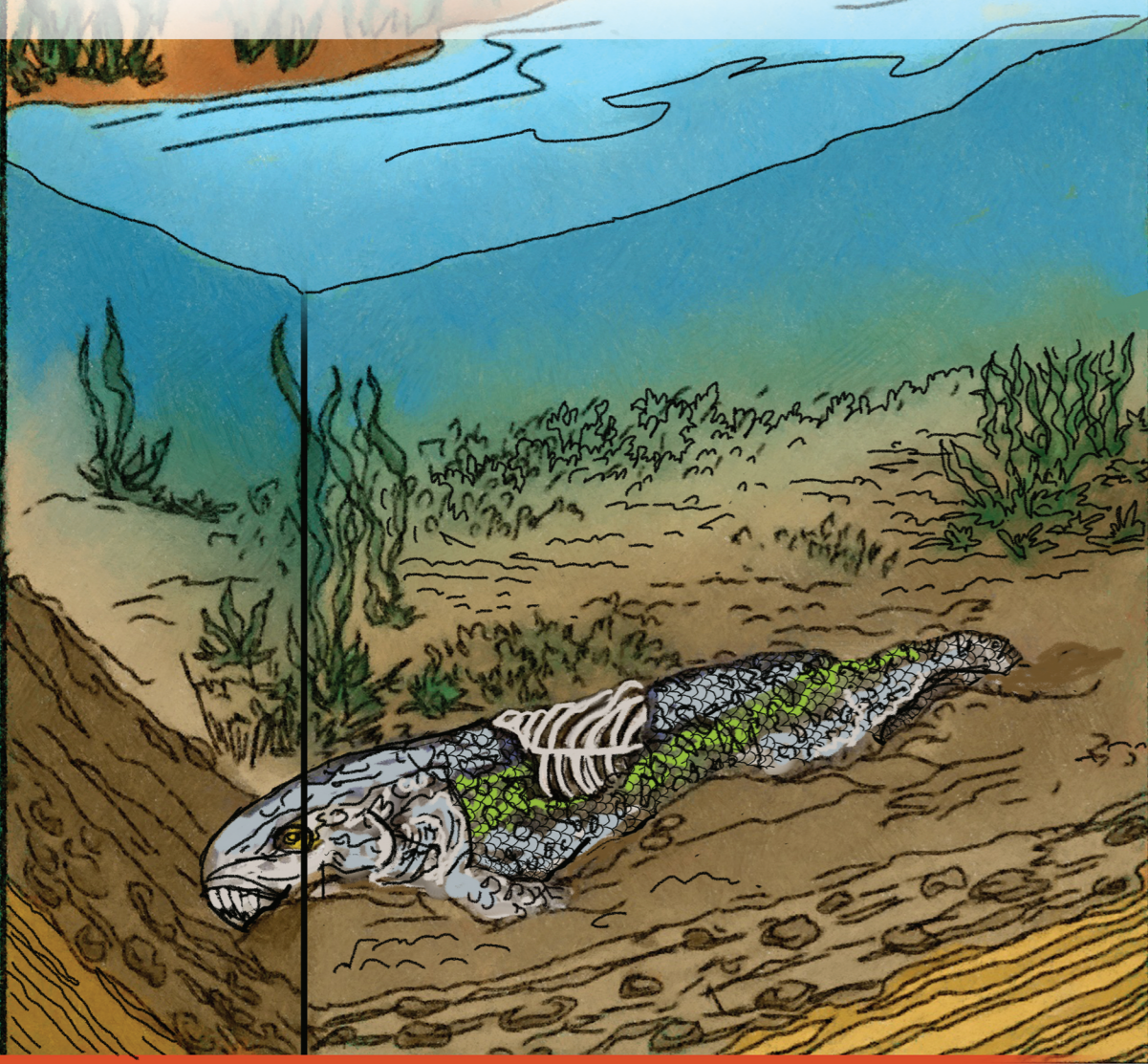
WHAT IS A FOSSIL?

HOW A FOSSIL FORMS

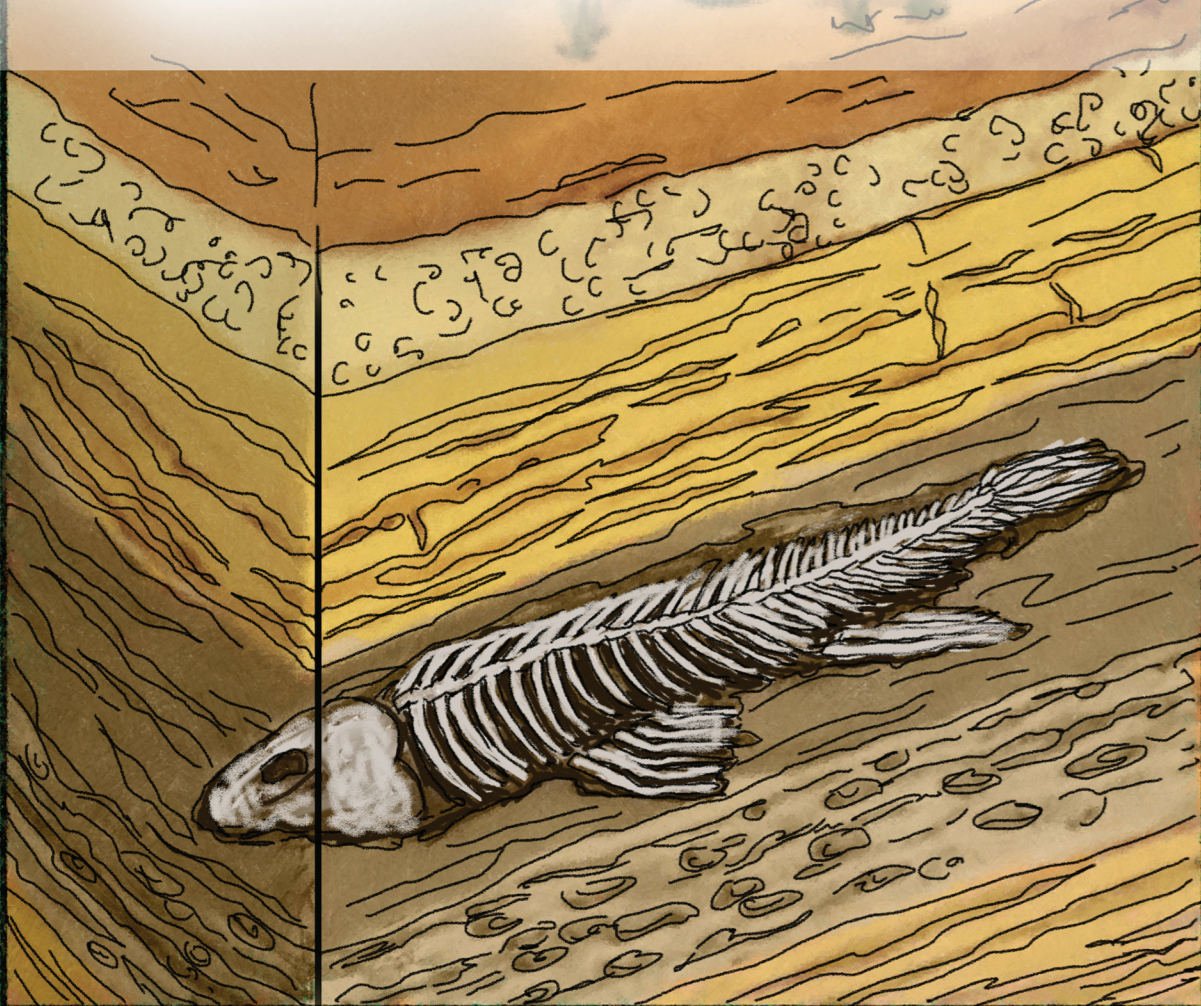
1 An ancient fish dies in a river.



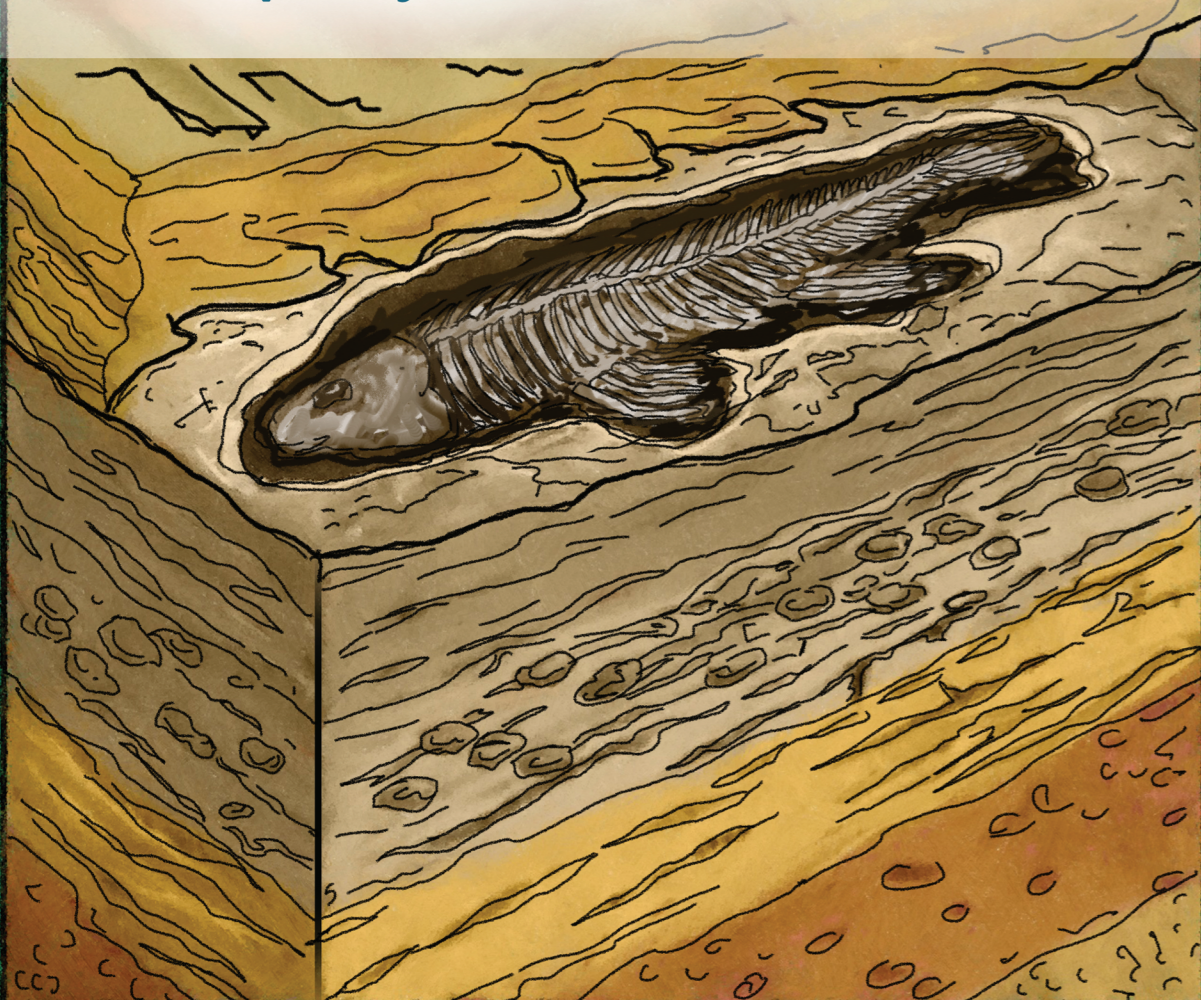
2 Sediments start to cover the remains of the fish.



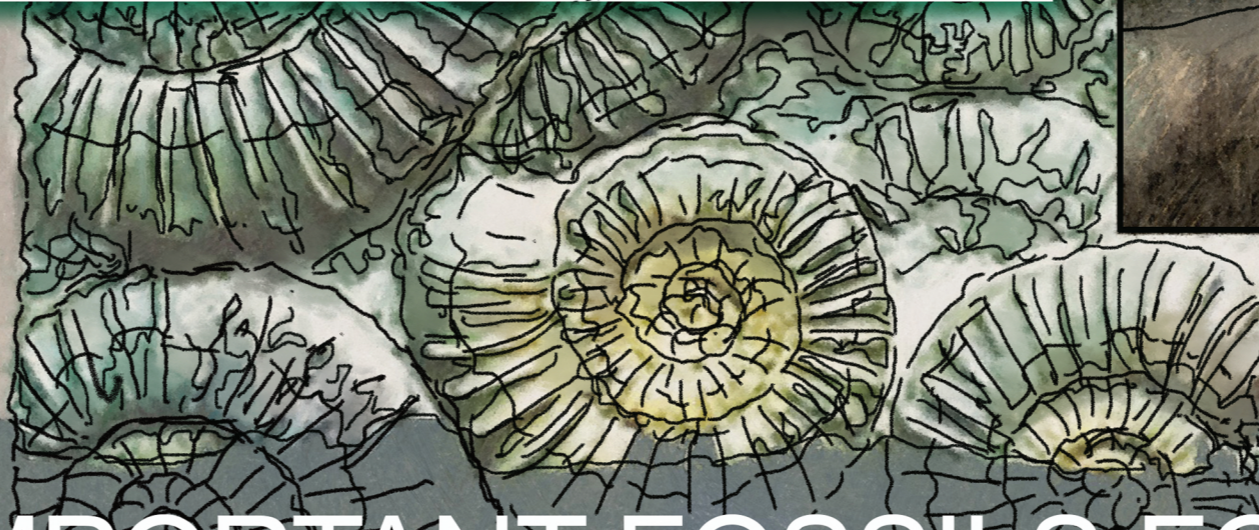
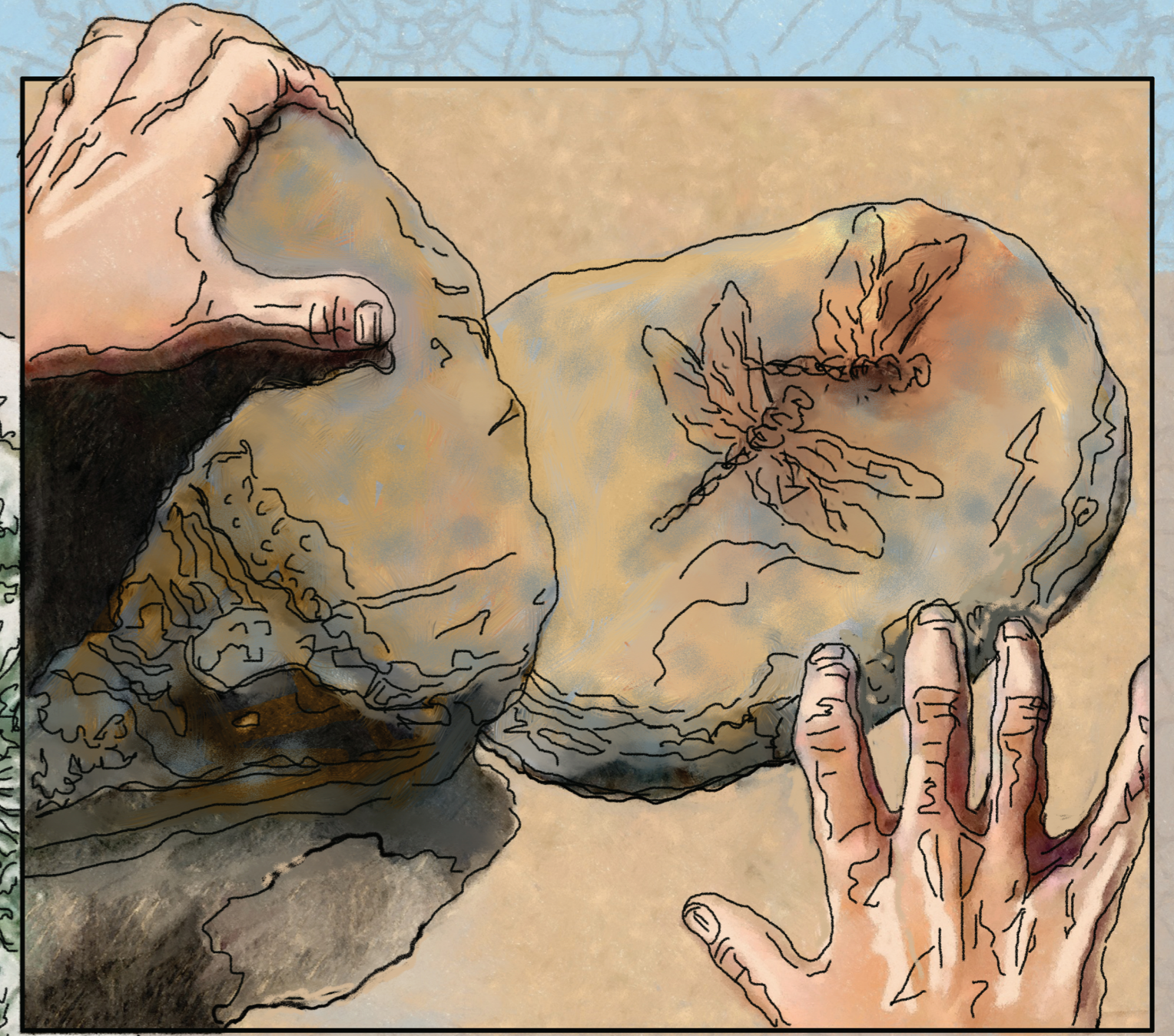
3 Over millions of years, the sediments become rock. The fish becomes a fossil.



4 The fossilised fish in the rock is exposed by the erosion of the top layers of sediment



Fossils are the preserved remains of plants or animals that are over 10,000 years old. There are two types of fossils, body fossils and trace fossils. Body fossils are the preserved remains of a plant or animal's body. Trace fossils are preserved trackways, footprints, fossilized egg shells, and nests.



IMPORTANT FOSSILS FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA



Australopithecus

Australopithecus (means "southern ape") fossils have been found in the area of the Cradle of Humankind, Gauteng. They lived about 2 - 3 million years ago. The first adult Australopithecus was found by Dr Robert Broom, in the Sterkfontein Caves, near Krugersdorp.



Homo Naledi

Dr. Berger's team discovered the fossil of Homo naledi, on a farm in the Cradle of Humankind, Gauteng in 2013. Homo Naledi is a new species of the genus Homo, a primitive human relative, with a tiny orange-sized brain, slender body, ape-like shoulders and strangely curved fingers. There were more than 1500 fossil remains found with this finding.

