

Sussex is a brilliant place to go on a fossil hunt. But what are fossils? They are the preserved remains or traces of plants and animals that lived in the remote past found in the earth's crust.

Fossils in chalk are found Sussex-wide and are from the Cretaceous period (145.5 – 65.5 million years ago). Fossils in clay are found at Bognor Regis and Bracklesham Bay and are from the Eocene epoch (56 – 33.9 million years ago).

Here are some fossils you can find in Sussex, though this is not a complete list. Keep your eyes peeled and tick off the different fossils you find.

Fossils can be found by looking closely at pebbles along the beach. Avoid using hammers and chisels while fossil hunting, as they can damage fossils and the delicate chalk.

**FUN FACT!**

Some Cretaceous period dinosaurs you might know are Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus and Velociraptor.

The Eocene epoch was when animals related to modern day whales evolved from living on land to living fully in the ocean.



**AMMONITES**

These are probably the most well-known fossils. Ammonites lived in the sea around 240 – 65 million years ago and are now extinct. Ammonites belong to a group of animals called cephalopods – their living relatives are octopus, squid, nautilus and cuttlefish – just like Chroma! **Points: 10**



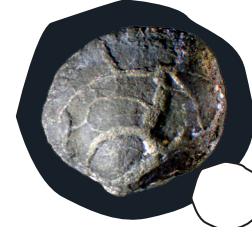
**ECHINOIDS**

Echinoids, or sea urchins, have lived in the ocean for about 450 million years. Their fossils are common all along the Sussex Coast and look very much like their living sea urchin relatives **Points: 5**



**BIVALVES**

There are lots of bivalves still living today such as mussels, oysters and cockles. The oldest bivalve fossils are from over 500 million years ago. Look out for fossils of the spiny cockle *Spondylus spinosus* **Points: 8**



**BRACHIOPODS**

Brachiopods have lived on earth for at least 550 million years. They have a pair of shells and look similar to bivalves but are actually not related to them. They are a common fossil to find along the Sussex Coast! **Points: 7**

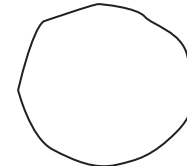


**SHARK TEETH**

Sharks lose lots of teeth during their lives. They have been around for more than 400 million years, and lots of their teeth have fossilised. Bracklesham Bay is a great place to look for them **Points: 10**



**FOSSIL HUNTER SCORE**



Did you know that the chalk cliffs in Sussex were formed between 100 and 60 million years ago? They are made up of billions of tiny plankton fossils called coccolithophores

