



Ammonite fossil at Cliffe Castle Museum
Photograph © Paul White Photography

You inspire me to ...

form a fossil.

The fossil in the photograph is called an Ammonite. Fossils are found in rocks and are the remains of plants or animals which got buried in sand and mud and over time turned into stone.

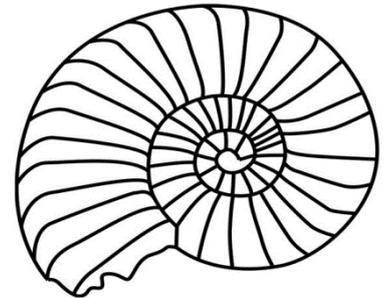
The ammonite was a sea creature which had a spiral-shaped shell and lived in the sea millions of years ago. It became extinct around the same time as the dinosaurs.

What do I need?

- A black pen or a sharp pencil
- A piece of paper
- Some colouring pens or pencil

What am I doing?

- Take your pencil and place the tip right in the centre of your paper. Draw round and around in circles, getting bigger each time. This is called a spiral.
- When you think you have gone around enough times, draw a line back inwards to create an 'end'.
- Next we have to make the spiral look more like an ammonite fossil!
- To do this, put your pen back in the centre and start drawing lines going outwards so that your spiral looks like the drawing
- Use your colouring pens to colour in the ammonite. You could use earthy colours like we find in rocks like grey, yellow and brown or brighter colours we find in the sea creatures living in our oceans today.



Hints and Tips

- You could draw a really big ammonite which covers the entire piece of paper or several smaller ammonites and colour each one differently.
- When ammonites were alive, they had tentacles coming out of the 'end' and two eyes. Why not have a go at drawing an ammonite as it would have looked millions of years ago?
- Can you think of something else to make a spiral out of? A piece of string? A colourful length of wool? A rope? A piece of plasticine or play dough?