Proof in the Poo: Coprolite

Name: ANSWER KEY Date: _____

Vocabulary Words: Match the definition to each word.

1. Coprolite is fossilized poop that has turned into solid rock.
2. For poop to become a fossil, it must be buried really quickly and deeply.
3. Scientists study coprolite to learn about what ancient animals ate.
4. The process of making a fossil often involves water filled with minerals replacing the original matter.
5. Unlike regular animal poop, coprolite does not turn into dust and fertilizer.

Word bank: minerals, quickly, poop, dust, ate

Multiple Choice: Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question.

1. Why do most animal droppings not turn into fossils today?
   - A. They are eaten by other animals.
   - B. They are washed away by rain.
   - C. They turn back into dust and fertilizer.
   - D. They become gold.

2. What can scientists learn from studying coprolite?
   - A. How animals looked
   - B. What animals ate
   - C. Where animals lived
   - D. How rocks are formed

3. What must happen for poop to become a fossil?
   - A. It must be left in the sun
   - B. It must be buried quickly and deeply
   - C. It must dry out in the air
   - D. It must be eaten

4. Coprolite fossils are:
   - A. Extremely rare and expensive
   - B. Only found in zoos
   - C. Common and not very expensive
   - D. Made of plastic

Discussion & Reflection: Answer the following questions in complete sentences

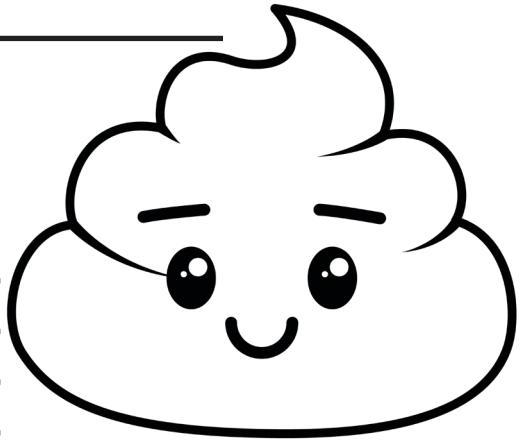
1. Why do you think it is interesting for scientists to study coprolite?

It is interesting for scientists to study coprolite because it can show what ancient animals ate and help us learn about their diets and environments.

2. Explain how coprolite is different from regular animal poop found today.?

Coprolite is different from regular animal poop because it has turned into solid rock and was preserved as a fossil, while regular poop breaks down and disappears.

3. This shows me that God is (Circle the word):

Wise Powerful Caring Creative All of the above

Explain your choice: