

# 1 Read the Title

The title tells you what process the flowchart explains. It is the main idea of the chart.

# 2 Follow the Arrows

Find the arrows that connect each part. The arrows show the order to follow when reading the flowchart. Use your finger to follow the arrows in the directions they point.

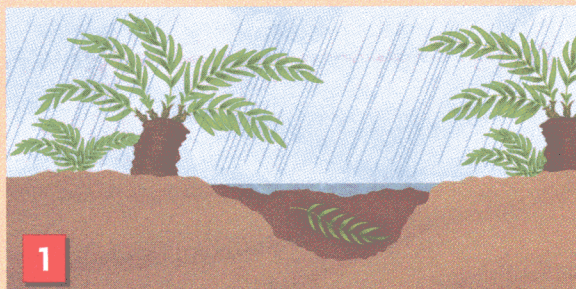
# 3 Look at the Pictures

Now study the pictures. They show what is happening in the process.

# 4 Read All Words

The words give you more details about the pictures. Read the words carefully in the correct order.

## How a Leaf Became a Fossil



A leaf was buried in the mud.



Over many years, the mud hardened into rock.



The leaf decayed, leaving a hollow place on the rock.



**EXAMPLE OF** Reading a Flowchart

Read the flowchart below to see another way fossils can be formed.

**Title** → **How Fossils Are Formed**



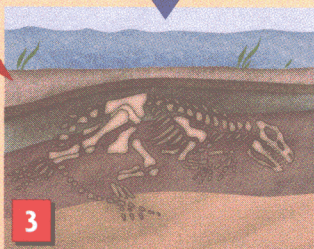
A dinosaur dies and falls into the water.

**Arrow** →



Sand and mud cover the dinosaur.

**Pictures** →



Minerals are dissolved in the water and seep into the dinosaur's bones. The bones disappear but the minerals remain.

**Words** →



Over millions of years, layers of rock pile up. Their weight hardens the minerals.



The rocks and fossils are uncovered on dry land.

**Last step** →

# USE THIS SKILL.

## Read a Flowchart

Use the flowchart on page 190 to answer the following questions.

1. What does the title tell about the flowchart?
2. How many steps are shown in the flowchart?
3. What happens after the dinosaur's body falls into the water?
4. What replaces the dinosaur bones?
5. How much time does it take for fossils to form?
6. Why do you think dinosaur fossils are rare?

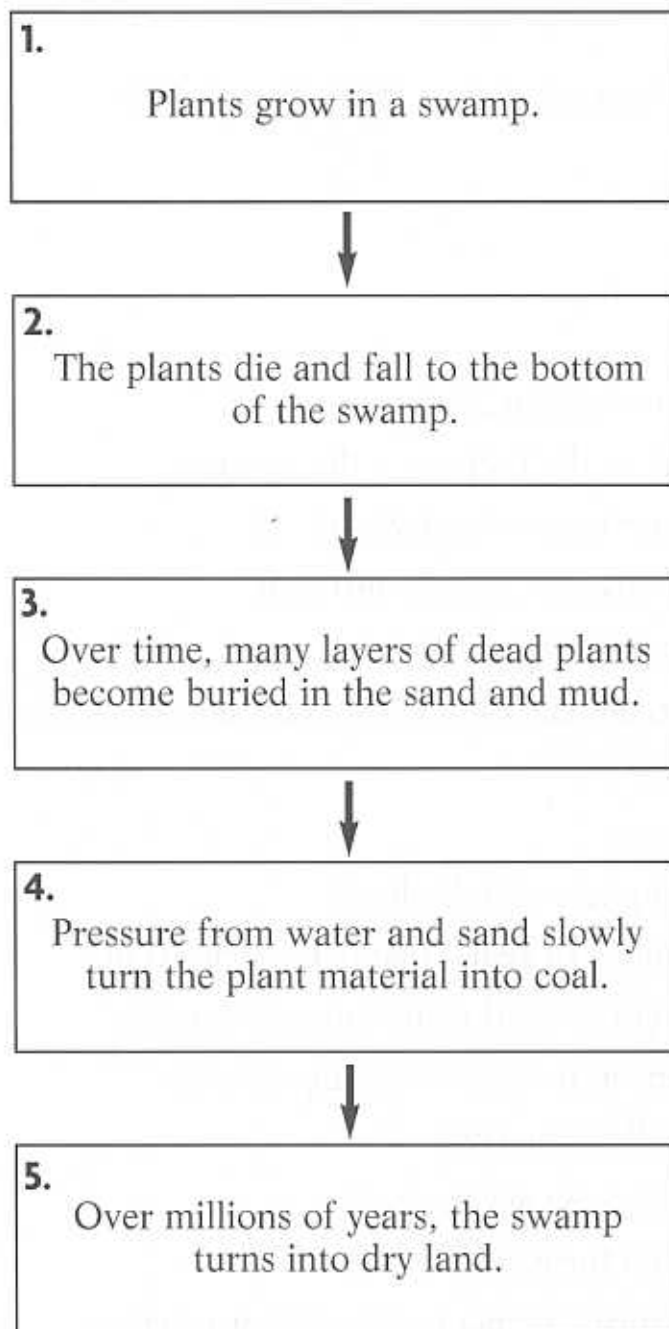
### TEST TIP

You might be asked to read a flowchart when taking a test. Look for numbers to help you follow the steps in order. If there are no numbers, follow the arrows. Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the process shown on the flowchart.

## Practicing Skill 38

**HOW TO** Read a Flowchart

Read the flowchart below to see how coal is formed. Then answer the questions on page 76.

*How Coal Is Formed*

**Use the flowchart on page 75 to answer the following. Circle the letter of the best answer.**

1. This flowchart is mostly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. earthquakes.
  - B. erosion.
  - C. coal.
  - D. plants.
2. How many steps are shown in the flowchart?
  - A. 4
  - B. 5
  - C. 6
  - D. 7
3. What happens in Step 2?
  - A. Plants fall to the bottom of the swamp.
  - B. The swamp turns into dry land.
  - C. Pressure turns the plants into coal.
  - D. Plants grow in the swamp.
4. What step comes right after plants die and fall to the bottom of the swamp?
  - A. Plants grow.
  - B. The swamp turns to dry land.
  - C. Over millions of years, plants turn into coal.
  - D. Many layers of dead plants become buried.
5. What happens at the end of the flowchart?
  - A. Miners collect the coal.
  - B. The plants grow again.
  - C. The swamp turns into dry land.
  - D. Pressure turns the plant material into coal.