

index fossil *(in-dex-fos-sil)*

Definition

n. A fossil that is useful for dating and correlating the strata in which it is found.

Example Sentence

Geologists often use an **index fossil** to identify the age of sedimentary rock layers.

More Example Sentences

The presence of an **index fossil** helped scientists determine the geological period of the rock formation.

Synonyms

guide fossil; marker fossil; zone fossil

Antonyms

living fossil; contemporary organism; recent species

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