What's your type?

Can you determine the types of fossils these are based on the way they were formed?



A. Coprolites estimated to be 14,000 years old were found inside a cave in Oregon. A DNA analysis confirmed that they were produced by early humans. These feces are among the earliest human remains found in the Western Hemisphere. What type of fossils are coprolites?



B. A mummified woolly mammoth calf was found in the permafrost in Siberia. The fossil specimen even has skin tissue and fur. What type of fossil is it?



C. A big, colorful rock thought to be a tree fossil has been found in a national park in Colorado. Geochemical analysis has determined that the rock is made almost entirely of quartz, and the different colors are caused by metal impurities mixed in with the quartz. What type of fossil is this most likely to be?



D. The skeletons of ground sloths have been found in the La Brea Tar Pits in California. The asphalt lakes have yielded fossils of many Ice Age mammals. What type of fossils are these?



E. Fossils of ferns are often preserved in a way that resembles carbon film. The only thing that remains from fern decomposition is the carbon they contained, which leaves behind a black or white mark on the rock like a stamp.



F. Gastroliths (also called gizzard stones) from the Jurassic period have been found near Starr Springs in Utah. These stones help reptiles and birds digest food. What type of fossils are they?



G. A fossil with a brachiopod (a type of marine organism) imprint was found in Aurora, NC. It seems the brachiopod itself must have decomposed after settling on the soft sediment. What type of fossil is this?



H. Geochemical analysis has shown that a trilobite fossil is made completely of rock and has no organic matter. What type of fossil could this be?



I. Dr. Cynthia Liutkus-Pierce has been studying footprints of early human ancestors in Tanzania. These footprints have been preserved in volcanic sediment for 3.8 million years. What type of fossil are these footprints?