

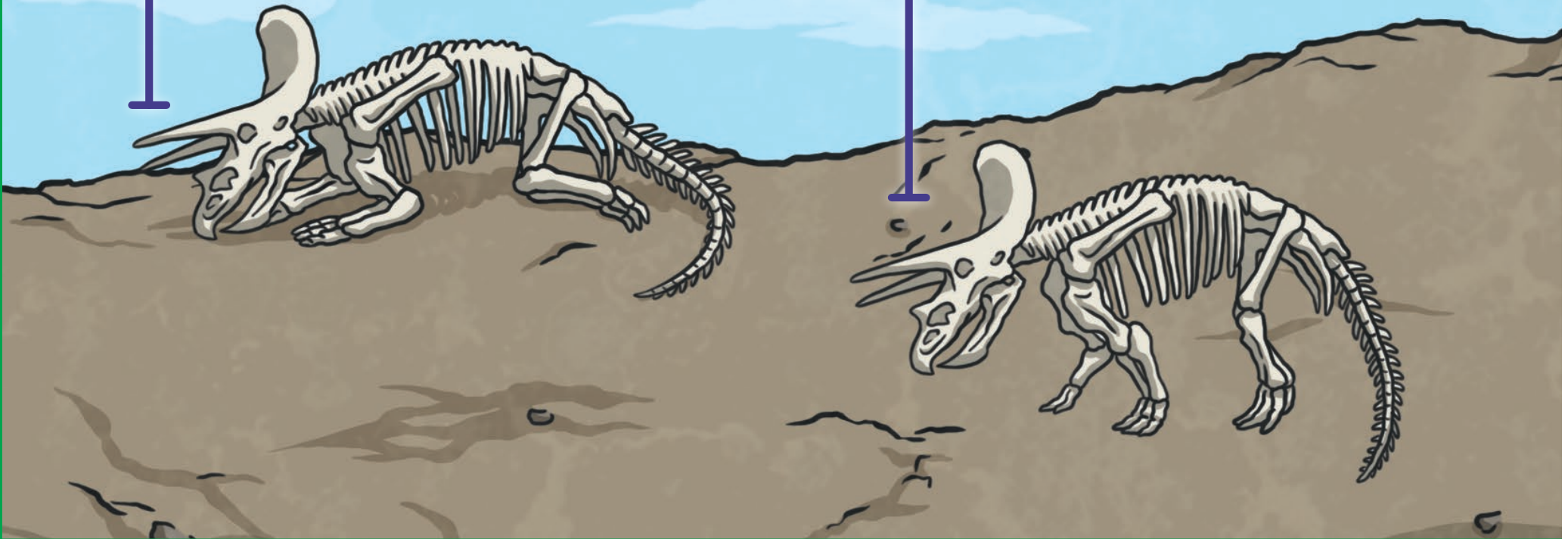
How Are Mould and Cast Fossils F

1

An animal dies. Some parts of the body decay and, usually, only the skeleton is left.

2

The skeleton is covered with sand, earth, rock or seabed before the bones can disappear.



Formed?

3

Over a very long time, the bones break down and leave a space in the earth, like an empty mould.

4

Minerals slowly fill the space in layers, in the exact shape of the bones.



5

Under lots of pressure, the new minerals harden into rock.

6

The earth is eroded away by the weather or the sea. The rock fossil is exposed and discovered.

