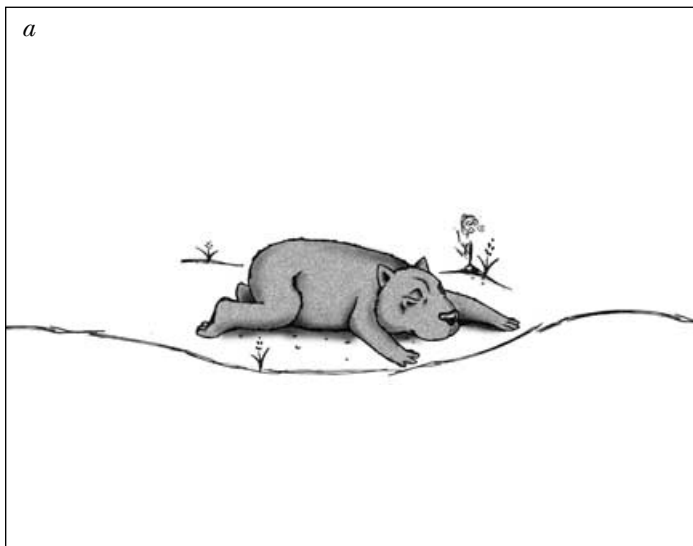




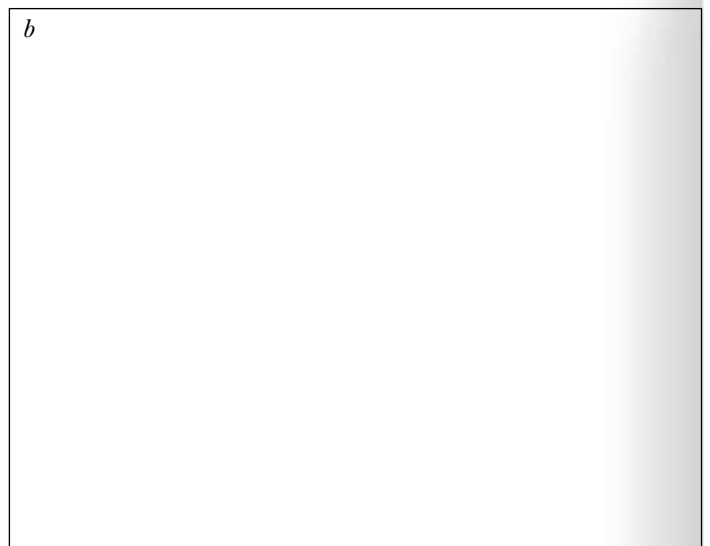
Digging for fossils

Fossils at Naracoorte in South Australia and Riversleigh in Queensland have helped researchers to uncover the identity of Australia's ancient mammals. Marsupial fossils that have been uncovered include moles, bandicoots, marsupial 'lions', koalas, wombats, kangaroos and possums. These sites have been listed as World Heritage sites because of their worldwide importance.

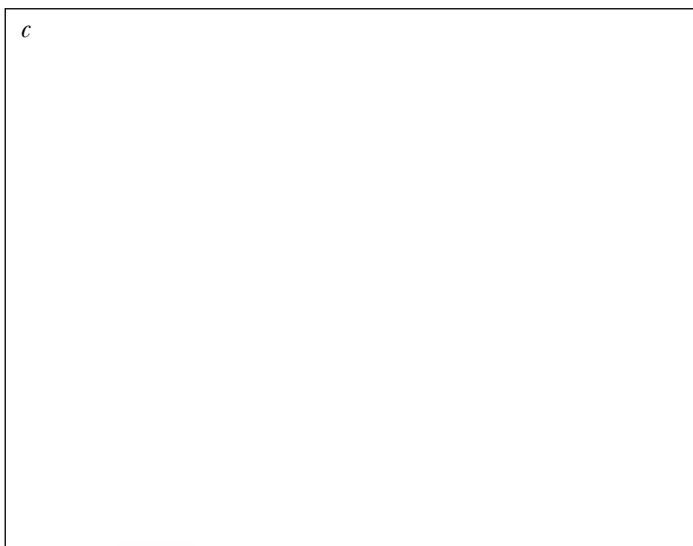
Refer to page 35 of the *Jacaranda Primary Atlas Second Edition*. The diagram will help you draw four stages to show how a giant wombat living 200 000 years ago became a fossil today. Complete the illustration and caption for each stage of the diagram. The first diagram has been started for you.



The wombat's flesh may be eaten by other animals, or rot away leaving just the _____.



Over time, sand or silt _____ the wombat's skeleton.



The bones are gradually replaced by minerals. This process is called _____.



Earth movements and erosion may bring the _____ skeleton close to the surface.