

# Mountaintop Fossil

The Esposito family went hiking on a tall mountain. Mrs. Esposito picked up a shell fossil from the top of the mountain. The fossil was once a shelled organism that lived in the ocean. The family had different ideas about how the fossil ended up there. This is what they thought:



**Mrs. Esposito:** A bird picked up the organism and dropped the shell as it flew over the mountain.

**Mr. Esposito:** Water, ice, or wind eventually carried the fossil to the top of the mountain.

**Rosa:** A mountain formed in an area that was once covered by ocean.

**Sofia:** The fossil flowed out of a volcano that rose up from the ocean floor.

**Hector:** Mountains existed before the oceans formed.

**Jose:** A strong undersea earthquake pushed the ocean floor up to form a mountain.

Whom do you think has the best idea about how the fossil ended up on a mountaintop? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain your thinking.

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