Ohio Fossils Rock!

Part I, What are the Odds? Roll the dice 50x to represent 50 different organisms. Use the key below to discover each organisms fate based on the number combo rolled. Keep track by adding tally marks in your data table using the key on the back of this worksheet. Convert the numbers to a percentage (example: 25 tally marks = 50%, 3 tally marks = 6%) and enter in % column to calculate odds of fossilization.

Possible Outcome	Tally Marks	Total Number (add up tally marks)	Percentage (Total # X 2)
Dry Up			
Rot Away			
Eaten by Animal			
Washed away by waves			
Washed away by current			
Buried and fossilized.			

Part II, Fossil ID: Identify seven of Ohio's most common *Ordovician (450 million years ago) Fossils* using a dichotomous key. Write the names of the fossils, what type of animal they were (or closest relative) and if you think that the organism is extinct or still exists today. When finished, answer the questions below.

Fossil #	Fossil Name	Type of animal/closest relative	Extinct? Y or N
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Based on the types of fossils that you identified, what would you think Ohio was like in the Ordovician Era? What type of weather do you hypothesize? What was the landscape like?

Why would Ohio weather have been so different?

Developed by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

Fossilization Key

Combination	Outcome
1-1	Buried in soft mud – becomes a Fossil
1-2	Eaten by an animal
1-3	Eaten by an animal
1-4	Washed away by the current
1-5	Eaten by an animal
1-6	Rot away
2-2	Eaten by an animal
2-3	Washed away by the current
2-4	Eaten by an animal
2-5	Rot Away
2-6	Rot Away
3-3	Eaten by an animal
3-4	Rot Away
3-5	Rot Away
3-6	Dried up
4-4	Rot Away
4-5	Dried up
4-6	Washed away by waves
5-5	Washed away by waves
5-6	Eaten by an animal
6-6	Buried in sediments – becomes a Fossil