

Historical Milestones in Earth Science

Earth Science · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which scientist is credited with first proposing the theory of continental drift in 1912?

- A) Alfred Wegener**
- B) Charles Darwin
- C) James Hutton
- D) Harry Hess

2. The 1883 eruption of which volcano was one of the loudest sounds ever recorded in history?

- A) Mount St. Helens
- B) Krakatoa**
- C) Mount Tambora
- D) Mount Fuji

3. In 1960, which vessel achieved the record for the deepest manned descent into the Mariana Trench?

- A) Alvin
- B) Trieste**
- C) DSV Limiting Factor
- D) Nautila

4. What is the name of the supercontinent that existed approximately 335 to 175 million years ago?

- A) Gondwana
- B) Laurasia
- C) Pangaea**
- D) Rodinia

5. Who developed the scale used to measure the magnitude of earthquakes in 1935?

- A) Giuseppe Mercalli
- B) Charles Richter**
- C) Beno Gutenberg
- D) Hiroo Kanamori

6. The 'Year Without a Summer' in 1816, caused by a major volcanic eruption, occurred after the explosion of which volcano?

- A) Mount Tambora**
- B) Mount Pinatubo
- C) Mount Pelée
- D) Mount Vesuvius

7. In 1963, the publication of a paper by Vine and Matthews provided key evidence for what geological process?

- A) Seafloor spreading**
- B) Plate tectonics
- C) Mountain orogeny
- D) Sedimentation

8. Which explorer led the 1872 Challenger expedition, the first global marine research cruise?

- A) James Cook
- B) Charles Wyville Thomson**
- C) Ferdinand Magellan
- D) Roald Amundsen

9. The discovery of the Earth's inner core is attributed to which Danish seismologist in 1936?

- A) Inge Lehmann**
- B) Beno Gutenberg
- C) Andrija Mohorovicic
- D) Harry Hess

10. Which classification system for climate types was first published in 1884?

- A) Köppen climate classification**
- B) Thornthwaite system
- C) Holdridge life zones
- D) Trewartha climate classification

11. What event in 1902 destroyed the city of Saint-Pierre on the island of Martinique?

- A) Earthquake
- B) Tsunami
- C) Pyroclastic flow**
- D) Hurricane

12. The ozone hole over Antarctica was first identified by scientists from the British Antarctic Survey in which decade?

- A) 1960s
- B) 1970s
- C) 1980s**
- D) 1990s

13. In 1785, who published 'Theory of the Earth', establishing the foundations of modern geology?

- A) Charles Lyell
- B) James Hutton**
- C) William Smith
- D) Georges Cuvier

14. The Great Flood of the Mississippi River occurred in which year, causing widespread devastation across the US?

- A) 1927**
- B) 1935
- C) 1941
- D) 1952

15. What was the first artificial satellite to capture a full image of the Earth, launched in 1957?

- A) Vanguard 1
- B) Sputnik 1**
- C) Explorer 1
- D) Luna 1

16. The concept of the 'Mohorovicic discontinuity' refers to the boundary between which two layers of the Earth?

- A) Outer and inner core
- B) Crust and mantle**
- C) Mantle and outer core
- D) Lithosphere and asthenosphere

17. Which mineral property was systematically categorized by Friedrich Mohs in 1812?

- A) Color
- B) Luster
- C) Hardness**
- D) Cleavage

18. In 1953, who first mapped the mid-ocean ridge system, revealing the 'Great Global Rift'?

- A) Marie Tharp**
- B) Bruce Heezen
- C) Harry Hess
- D) Robert Ballard