

# Historical Milestones in Earth Science

Earth Science · Practice Test · 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