

South American Science Breakthroughs: New Species, Ancient Migrations, and More

South America Science · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. A newly discovered termite species in South America has been noted for its unusual physical characteristic resembling which marine animal?

- A) A sperm whale**
- B) A dolphin
- C) A shark
- D) A squid

2. A recent genomic study revealed a previously unknown ancient human migration into South America that occurred as recently as what period?

- A) Around 1,300 years ago (Tang dynasty)**
- B) Around 5,000 years ago (Neolithic era)
- C) Around 10,000 years ago (Mesolithic era)
- D) Around 15,000 years ago (Upper Paleolithic era)

3. A new study on the Monte Verde archaeological site in Chile suggests it might be younger than previously believed, with proposed ages ranging between approximately:

- A) 4,200 and 8,600 years**
- B) 1,000 and 3,000 years
- C) 9,000 and 12,000 years
- D) 15,000 and 18,000 years

4. What type of scientific research recently led to the discovery of a genetic signature associated with Indigenous Australasians in South America, dating back to China's Tang dynasty?

- A) Genomic study**
- B) Paleontological excavation
- C) Botanical survey
- D) Oceanographic research

5. The Vera C. Rubin Observatory, located in Chile, recently made a significant discovery in just one month of testing, detecting approximately how many new asteroids?

- A) 11,000**
- B) 1,100
- C) 110,000
- D) 1,100,000

6. A recent study on ancient DNA from southern South America has pieced together over 6,000 years of human migration, revealing that prehistoric communities were more:

- A) Diverse and mobile**
- B) Isolated and stationary
- C) Technologically advanced
- D) Agriculturally focused

7. A bizarre prehistoric animal, named *Tanyka amnicola*, with uniquely twisted jawbones was recently discovered in Brazil, dating back approximately how many years?

- A) 275 million years**
- B) 27.5 million years
- C) 2.75 million years
- D) 275,000 years

8. Researchers have discovered a tropical insect in parts of Central and South America that can shift its color from pink to green. What is this insect called?

- A) *Arota festae* (katydid)**
- B) Morpho butterfly
- C) Leaf-cutter ant
- D) Orchid mantis

9. In Peru, researchers have discovered a unique type of frog belonging to the genus *Gastrotheca*, known for:

- A) Carrying eggs in a kangaroo-like pouch**
- B) Living in subterranean caves
- C) Having venomous skin
- D) Hibernating for extended periods

10. A study focusing on the Atlantic Forest, a biome spanning Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, highlights that it has lost nearly what percentage of its original vegetation?

- A) 90%**
- B) 50%
- C) 25%
- D) 75%

11. What is the name of the newly mapped supercluster, identified as one of the largest structures in the universe, which was previously hidden behind the Milky Way's 'Zone of Avoidance'?

A) Vela Supercluster

B) Shapley Supercluster

C) Hercules-Corona Borealis Great Wall

D) Laniakea Supercluster

12. A recent study found evidence of group A strep, the bacterium responsible for scarlet fever, in a 700-year-old mummy from which South American country, indicating its presence before European contact?

A) Bolivia

B) Peru

C) Colombia

D) Ecuador