

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

South America Science · Practice Test · 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