

Exploring the Ancient World: Paleontology Trivia

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which of the following is the primary material that fossils are typically made from?

- A) Organic plant matter
- B) Minerals that have replaced original bone or shell**
- C) Soft tissues like muscle and skin
- D) Volcanic ash

2. The fossil record provides strong evidence for which scientific theory?

- A) The Big Bang Theory
- B) The Theory of Relativity
- C) The Theory of Plate Tectonics
- D) The Theory of Evolution**

3. Which geological era is often referred to as the 'Age of Mammals'?

- A) Mesozoic Era
- B) Paleozoic Era
- C) Cenozoic Era**
- D) Precambrian Era

4. What is the scientific term for the study of ancient plant life through fossils?

- A) Paleozoology
- B) Paleobotany**
- C) Palynology
- D) Paleoanthropology

5. Which type of fossil preservation is most likely to capture fine details like feathers or skin impressions?

- A) Permineralization
- B) Molds and Casts
- C) Carbonization**
- D) Unaltered Preservation

6. The extinction event that wiped out most dinosaurs occurred at the end of which geological period?

- A) Triassic Period
- B) Jurassic Period
- C) Cretaceous Period**
- D) Permian Period

7. Which famous fossil discovery provided key evidence for the evolution of birds from dinosaurs?

- A) Lucy
- B) Archaeopteryx**
- C) Tiktaalik
- D) Turkana Boy

8. What is the geological time scale primarily based on?

- A) The evolution of mammal species
- B) The formation of mountain ranges
- C) The sequence of rock layers and the fossils they contain**
- D) The study of ancient climate patterns

9. The study of fossilized pollen and spores is known as:

- A) Paleobotany
- B) Palynology**
- C) Ichnology
- D) Taphonomy

10. Which of these is NOT a type of trace fossil?

- A) Footprints
- B) Coprolites (fossilized feces)
- C) Shells**
- D) Burrows

11. The 'Cambrian Explosion' refers to a period of rapid diversification of what?

- A) Land plants
- B) Mammals
- C) Marine invertebrates**
- D) Flying reptiles

12. Which of the following is considered a synapsid, a group that includes the ancestors of mammals?

- A) Pterodactyl
- B) Dimetrodon**
- C) Triceratops
- D) Stegosaurus