

Exploring the World of Fossils

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What are fossils?

- A) Rocks that look like animals
- B) Remains or traces of ancient living things preserved in rock**
- C) Tools used by early humans
- D) Types of dinosaur footprints

2. Which of these is NOT a type of fossil?

- A) A dinosaur bone
- B) An insect trapped in amber
- C) A petrified tree trunk
- D) A freshly dug up flower**

3. What process turns dead organisms into fossils over millions of years?

- A) Evaporation
- B) Photosynthesis
- C) Fossilization**
- D) Erosion

4. Palaeontologists are scientists who study:

- A) Stars and planets
- B) The Earth's weather
- C) Ancient life and fossils**
- D) Modern-day animals

5. What does the word 'dinosaur' mean?

- A) Giant lizard
- B) Terrible lizard**
- C) Ancient reptile
- D) Flying monster

6. Which era is known as the 'Age of Dinosaurs'?

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

7. What is amber?

- A) A type of fossilized bone
- B) Hardened tree sap that can preserve small organisms**
- C) A type of sedimentary rock
- D) A tool used by early humans

8. When a whole organism, like a mammoth, is found frozen in ice, it's called a:

- A) Petrified fossil
- B) Cast fossil
- C) Mold fossil
- D) Frozen fossil**

9. Fossils are most commonly found in which type of rock?

- A) Igneous rock
- B) Metamorphic rock
- C) Sedimentary rock**
- D) Volcanic rock

10. What is a 'trace fossil'?

- A) The actual remains of an animal
- B) Evidence of an animal's activity, like footprints or burrows**
- C) A fossilized plant leaf
- D) A fossilized insect

11. The process where minerals replace organic material in a bone or shell is called:

- A) Compaction
- B) Sedimentation
- C) Mineralization**
- D) Decomposition

12. Which of these is a famous fossil site in Australia known for its dinosaur discoveries?

- A) The Great Barrier Reef
- B) Lascaux Cave
- C) The Winton Formation**
- D) The Grand Canyon

13. What are the tiny skeletons of ancient sea creatures called that can form chalky rocks?

- A) Ammonites
- B) Foraminifera**
- C) Trilobites
- D) Crinoids

14. What is a cast fossil?

- A) An impression left by an organism in the rock
- B) A hollow space in the rock shaped like the organism
- C) Minerals that have filled a hollow space, creating a replica of the organism**
- D) The original remains of an organism

15. Which of these is a common type of plant fossil?

- A) A shark tooth
- B) A fern frond**
- C) A bird feather
- D) A mammal skull

16. How do scientists learn about the diet of extinct animals like dinosaurs?

- A) By asking them
- B) By studying the shape of their teeth and stomach contents (if fossilized)**
- C) By observing modern animals
- D) By guessing

17. What are the large, flat rocks formed by layers of sediment that often contain fossils called?

- A) Limestone
- B) Sandstone
- C) Shale
- D) All of the above**

18. The study of fossils to understand past life and environments is called:

- A) Archaeology
- B) Geology
- C) Biology
- D) Palaeontology**