

Essentials of Palaeontology

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which geological era is commonly referred to as the 'Age of Reptiles'?

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

2. What is the name of the process by which organic material in a dead organism is replaced by minerals?

- A) Petrification**
- B) Erosion
- C) Sublimation
- D) Fermentation

3. Which famous fossil, discovered in 1861, represents a transitional form between non-avian dinosaurs and birds?

- A) Tiktaalik
- B) Coelacanth
- C) Archaeopteryx**
- D) Ichthyostega

4. In which type of rock are fossils most commonly found?

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

5. Approximately how many years ago did the mass extinction event that wiped out the non-avian dinosaurs occur?

- A) 66 million years ago**
- B) 150 million years ago
- C) 250 million years ago
- D) 500 million years ago

6. What is the scientific term for the study of ancient life based on fossil evidence?

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

7. Which of these is considered a 'living fossil' because it has remained largely unchanged for millions of years?

A) Coelacanth

B) Velociraptor

C) Pterodactyl

D) Mammoth

8. Which period of the Mesozoic Era is most famously associated with large dinosaurs like Brachiosaurus and Stegosaurus?

A) Triassic

B) Jurassic

C) Cretaceous

D) Permian

9. What are coprolites?

A) Fossilized footprints

B) Fossilized teeth

C) Fossilized dung

D) Fossilized feathers

10. Which element is commonly used by scientists to date organic materials up to about 50,000 years old?

A) Carbon-14

B) Uranium-238

C) Potassium-Argon

D) Lead-206

11. What does the term 'ichnology' refer to in the study of fossils?

A) Study of fossilized bones

B) Study of fossilized skin

C) Study of trace fossils like tracks and burrows

D) Study of fossilized pollen

12. Which large prehistoric mammal is known for having long, curved tusks and a thick coat of fur?

A) Woolly Mammoth

B) Saber-toothed Tiger

C) Giant Sloth

D) Glyptodon

13. What is the primary difference between a paleontologist and an archaeologist?

- A) Paleontologists study dinosaurs, archaeologists study rocks
- B) Paleontologists study fossils, archaeologists study human history**
- C) Paleontologists work in labs, archaeologists work in museums
- D) There is no difference

14. Which continent is the origin of the 'Lucy' fossil (Australopithecus afarensis)?

- A) Asia
- B) Africa**
- C) South America
- D) Europe

15. What is the geological time scale division that includes the present day?

- A) Holocene**
- B) Pleistocene
- C) Miocene
- D) Pliocene