

Essentials of Palaeontology

Palaeontology · Practice Test · 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