

Geology: Historical Facts and Verified Events

Geology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher is considered one of the earliest geologists for his observations on fossils and sedimentation?

- A) Aristotle**
- B) Plato
- C) Socrates
- D) Pythagoras

2. The concept of Uniformitarianism, which states that geological processes operating today are the same as those that operated in the past, was famously proposed by which geologist?

- A) Charles Lyell**
- B) James Hutton
- C) Nicholas Steno
- D) Abraham Werner

3. The discovery of the 'Law of Superposition,' stating that in undisturbed rock layers, the oldest layers are at the bottom and the youngest are at the top, is attributed to which scientist?

- A) Nicholas Steno**
- B) William Smith
- C) Alfred Wegener
- D) Georges Cuvier

4. What geological phenomenon was famously documented and studied by Giuseppe Mercalli in the late 19th century, leading to the development of the Mercalli intensity scale?

- A) Earthquakes**
- B) Volcanic eruptions
- C) Landslides
- D) Tsunamis

5. The theory of continental drift, suggesting that continents were once joined as a single landmass, was first comprehensively presented by:

- A) Alfred Wegener**
- B) Arthur Holmes
- C) Harry Hess
- D) Marie Tharp

6. What major geological event in 1883, documented by numerous eyewitness accounts and scientific observations, involved a massive eruption and the destruction of an island?

A) Krakatoa

- B) Mount Vesuvius
- C) Mount St. Helens
- D) Mauna Loa

7. The understanding of plate tectonics, a unifying theory in geology, was significantly advanced by the study of:

A) Seafloor spreading

- B) Fossil distribution
- C) Mountain formation
- D) Rock weathering

8. Who created the first geological map of England and Wales, laying the groundwork for the field of stratigraphy?

A) William Smith

- B) Charles Lyell
- C) Mary Anning
- D) James Hall

9. The discovery of the fossilized remains of *Australopithecus afarensis*, including the famous 'Lucy' specimen, provided significant insights into:

A) Early human evolution

- B) Dinosaur extinction
- C) Ancient marine life
- D) The formation of the Earth's core

10. The study of paleontology, which involves the study of ancient life through fossils, was greatly advanced by the work of:

A) Georges Cuvier

- B) Charles Darwin
- C) Gregor Mendel
- D) Louis Pasteur

11. The widespread acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics was aided by the discovery of:

A) Mid-ocean ridges and magnetic striping

- B) The age of the Earth
- C) The composition of the Earth's mantle
- D) The process of erosion

12. What significant geological event in 1960 occurred off the coast of Chile and remains the largest earthquake ever recorded instrumentally?

A) The Great Chilean Earthquake

B) The San Francisco Earthquake

C) The Alaska Earthquake

D) The Indian Ocean Earthquake