

Exploring the World of Fossils

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 23 Questions

1. What is the study of fossils called?

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

2. Fossils are typically found preserved in which type of rock?

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

3. Which of these ancient creatures was a large marine reptile that lived during the Mesozoic Era?

- A) Mammoth
- B) Mosasaurs**
- C) Sabre-toothed cat
- D) Dodo bird

4. What is the scientific term for the preserved remains or traces of ancient organisms?

- A) Minerals
- B) Artifacts
- C) Fossils**
- D) Crystals

5. Which geological era is often referred to as the 'Age of Dinosaurs'?

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

6. What is a common method by which plant fossils are preserved?

- A) Petrification
- B) Amber fossilization
- C) Carbonization**
- D) Mummification

7. The fossilized skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex is an example of what kind of fossil?

A) Trace fossil

B) Body fossil

C) Imprint fossil

D) Mold fossil

8. Which of these extinct mammals was known for its enormous size and tusks?

A) Smilodon

B) Woolly Mammoth

C) Thylacine

D) Dodo

9. Fossils can tell us about Earth's past environments. What does the presence of coral fossils in a landlocked area suggest?

A) The area was once a desert.

B) The area was once covered by a shallow sea.

C) The area was once a dense forest.

D) The area was once a frozen tundra.

10. What process turns organic material into rock over millions of years?

A) Erosion

B) Weathering

C) Sedimentation

D) Petrification

11. Trilobites are a famous group of extinct marine arthropods. In which era did they primarily live?

A) Mesozoic Era

B) Cenozoic Era

C) Paleozoic Era

D) Hadean Eon

12. Which of the following is a type of dinosaur that had feathers?

A) Stegosaurus

B) Triceratops

C) Velociraptor

D) Brachiosaurus

13. What are fossilized footprints or burrows called?

- A) Body fossils
- B) Trace fossils**
- C) Coprolites
- D) Gastroliths

14. The extinction event that wiped out most dinosaurs also led to the decline of which other large group of animals?

- A) Insects
- B) Amphibians
- C) Reptiles**
- D) Marine invertebrates

15. What is the name for fossilized dinosaur dung?

- A) Amber
- B) Coprolite**
- C) Geode
- D) Opal

16. Which of these ancient plants is a type of fern that grew very tall and formed fossil fuels?

- A) Cycads
- B) Ginkgoes
- C) Horsetails**
- D) Conifers

17. The fossilized remains of very small organisms, like plankton, can accumulate to form which type of rock?

- A) Granite
- B) Limestone**
- C) Basalt
- D) Obsidian

18. What is the process by which an organism is trapped and preserved in tree sap?

- A) Mummification
- B) Freezing
- C) Amber fossilization**
- D) Carbonization

19. Which of these animals was a large, flightless bird that went extinct relatively recently?

A) Archaeopteryx

B) Dodo

C) Pterodactyl

D) Ichthyosaur

20. Fossils found in different rock layers help scientists understand the relative age of those layers. This is known as:

A) Radiometric dating

B) Stratigraphy

C) Paleomagnetism

D) Thermoluminescence dating

21. What does the discovery of fossilized ancient forests indicate about the past climate of that region?

A) It was likely colder and drier.

B) It was likely warmer and wetter.

C) It was likely subject to frequent volcanic eruptions.

D) It was likely a region of glaciers.

22. Which of these ancient marine reptiles were known for their long necks and were often mistaken for sea monsters?

A) Plesiosaurs

B) Ichthyosaurs

C) Mosasaurs

D) Pliosaurus

23. What is the scientific term for a fossilized egg?

A) Coprolite

B) Ootheca

C) Gastrolith

D) Ovum fossil