

Exploring the World of Fossils

Palaeontology · Practice Test · 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