

Palaeontology Knowledge Test

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which type of rock are fossils most commonly found in?

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

2. What is the term for a fossil that provides evidence of an organism's activity, such as footprints or burrows, rather than its physical remains?

- A) Body fossil
- B) Trace fossil**
- C) Cast fossil
- D) Mold fossil

3. During which geological era did the 'Age of Reptiles' occur?

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

4. What is the process called when minerals replace the organic material of a buried organism, turning it into stone?

- A) Petrification**
- B) Carbonization
- C) Molding
- D) Erosion

5. Which scientist is famously known as the 'father of palaeontology' for his work on extinction and comparative anatomy?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Georges Cuvier**
- C) Mary Anning
- D) Alfred Wegener

6. What is the specific time period in which the supercontinent Pangea began to break apart?

- A) Triassic**
- B) Jurassic
- C) Cretaceous
- D) Permian

7. Which of these is considered an 'index fossil', useful for dating rock layers because it was widespread and existed for a short time?

- A) Shark tooth
- B) Trilobite**
- C) Giant fern
- D) Modern clam

8. What defines the 'K-Pg boundary' in the geological record?

- A) The rise of mammals
- B) The extinction of dinosaurs**
- C) The formation of the moon
- D) The first appearance of flowering plants

9. In which type of environment would an organism be most likely to become fossilized?

- A) A windy mountaintop
- B) A fast-flowing river bed
- C) A swampy delta**
- D) A dry desert sand dune

10. What does the term 'strata' refer to in the study of fossils?

- A) Layers of rock**
- B) Types of dinosaurs
- C) Age of the earth
- D) Chemical composition

11. Which era is known as the 'Age of Mammals'?

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

12. What is a coprolite?

- A) Fossilized egg
- B) Fossilized dung**
- C) A type of ancient shell
- D) Fossilized skin impression

13. What tool do palaeontologists use to carefully remove rock surrounding a fossil?

- A) Chainsaw
- B) Pickaxe
- C) Dental pick**
- D) Hydraulic press

14. Which of these methods is used to determine the exact age of a rock layer using radioactive elements?

- A) Relative dating
- B) Radiometric dating**
- C) Superposition
- D) Cross-cutting

15. What are the 'Burgess Shale' fossils famous for preserving?

- A) Soft-bodied organisms from the Cambrian period**
- B) Dinosaur eggs
- C) Giant insect wings
- D) Plant pollen