

Fundamentals of Palaeontology

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What is the study of ancient life through the examination of fossils called?

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

2. Which type of rock are most fossils found in?

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

3. What term describes an organism that no longer has any living members on Earth?

- A) Endangered
- B) Extinct**
- C) Evolved
- D) Domesticated

4. Which of these is considered a 'trace fossil' rather than a body fossil?

- A) A dinosaur footprint**
- B) A preserved skull
- C) A fossilized tooth
- D) An insect in amber

5. During which geological era did the dinosaurs live?

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

6. What is the process called when minerals replace the organic material of a once-living organism?

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

7. Which scientific tool is used to determine the age of a fossil by measuring radioactive decay?

A) Radiometric dating

B) Carbon dating

C) Relative dating

D) Stratigraphy

8. Which famous scientist is credited with developing the theory of evolution by natural selection?

A) Isaac Newton

B) Charles Darwin

C) Gregor Mendel

D) Louis Pasteur

9. What do palaeontologists call the preserved remains or impressions of prehistoric life?

A) Artifacts

B) Relics

C) Fossils

D) Minerals

10. Which period of the Mesozoic Era is often referred to as the 'Age of Dinosaurs'?

A) Jurassic

B) Cambrian

C) Devonian

D) Silurian

11. What is a coprolite?

A) A type of fossilized plant

B) Fossilized animal dung

C) A prehistoric skin impression

D) A fossilized egg shell

12. Which layer of the Earth's crust helps scientists determine the relative age of fossils based on their depth?

A) Core

B) Mantle

C) Strata

D) Atmosphere