

Fundamentals of Palaeontology

Palaeontology · Practice Test · 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