

Nature and Animal History Chronicles

Natural History · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which period in Earth's history saw the extinction of approximately 96% of all marine species, known as the 'Great Dying'?

- A) Permian-Triassic**
- B) Cretaceous-Paleogene
- C) Ordovician-Silurian
- D) Devonian

2. What was the primary cause of the extinction of the Dodo bird on the island of Mauritius by the late 17th century?

- A) Climate change
- B) Human exploration and invasive species**
- C) Volcanic activity
- D) A viral pandemic

3. The 'Great Emu War' occurred in Australia in 1932 as a military intervention against birds damaging crops; which government department led the effort?

- A) Department of Agriculture
- B) Department of Defense**
- C) Department of Environment
- D) Department of Wildlife

4. Before the 19th century, which bird species native to North America existed in such vast numbers that flocks could block out the sun for hours?

- A) California Condor
- B) Passenger Pigeon**
- C) Bald Eagle
- D) Wild Turkey

5. The first animal to be successfully cloned from an adult somatic cell in 1996 was a:

- A) Mouse
- B) Sheep**
- C) Cow
- D) Goat

6. Which naturalist accompanied Charles Darwin on the HMS Beagle and later independently conceived the theory of evolution by natural selection?

A) Alfred Russel Wallace

B) Gregor Mendel

C) Carl Linnaeus

D) Louis Pasteur

7. The 'Year Without a Summer' in 1816, which caused widespread crop failure and animal starvation, was triggered by the eruption of which volcano?

A) Mount St. Helens

B) Mount Tambora

C) Krakatoa

D) Vesuvius

8. In the 18th century, which explorer was killed in Hawaii after misinterpreting local social customs regarding the sacredness of certain animals and lands?

A) Amerigo Vespucci

B) James Cook

C) Ferdinand Magellan

D) Vasco da Gama

9. What is the name of the 1962 book by Rachel Carson that documented the environmental harm caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides?

A) The Sixth Extinction

B) Silent Spring

C) A Sand County Almanac

D) Walden

10. Which flightless bird, now extinct, was the largest bird to ever live on the island of Madagascar?

A) Moa

B) Elephant Bird

C) Haast's Eagle

D) Dodo

11. The 'Little Ice Age' was a period of cooling that occurred after which medieval warm period?

A) The Medieval Warm Period

B) The Holocene Optimum

C) The Eemian Interglacial

D) The Cambrian Explosion

12. Which animal, once abundant across the North American Great Plains, was nearly driven to extinction by the late 19th century due to commercial hunting?

A) American Bison

B) Grizzly Bear

C) Pronghorn

D) Gray Wolf

13. In the history of domestication, which animal was the first to be domesticated by humans, approximately 15,000 to 30,000 years ago?

A) Horse

B) Cat

C) Dog

D) Sheep

14. The 'Great Smog of London' in 1952, which led to significant environmental policy changes, was caused by the heavy burning of what fuel?

A) Natural gas

B) Coal

C) Oil

D) Wood

15. Which extinct species of zebra, native to South Africa, was the first to have its DNA sequenced?

A) Grevy's Zebra

B) Mountain Zebra

C) Quagga

D) Burchell's Zebra