

Nature and Animal History Chronicles

Natural History · Practice Test · 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