Palaeontology Foundations

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Who is often credited with coining the term 'Dinosauria' in 1842?

A) Charles Darwin
B) Richard Owen
C) Mary Anning
D) Georges Cuvier

2. Which English fossil collector is famous for discovering the first correctly identified ichthyosaur skeleton?

A) William Buckland
B) Gideon Mantell
C) Mary Anning
D) Louis Agassiz

3. What is the name of the oldest known genus of dinosaur, described by William Buckland in 1824?

A) Megalosaurus
B) Iguanodon
C) T-Rex
D) Stegosaurus

4. Which French naturalist is considered the father of paleontology for his work on extinction?

A) Jean-Baptiste Lamarck
B) Georges Cuvier
C) Thomas Jefferson
D) Charles Lyell

5. In which century did the scientific study of fossils begin to emerge as a distinct discipline?

A) 15th century
B) 17th century
C) 19th century
D) 20th century

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6. The Iguanodon was one of the first dinosaurs scientifically described, by which individual in 1825?

A) Gideon Mantell
B) Richard Owen
C) Robert Plot
D) Alfred Wegener

7. What does the term 'palaeontology' literally mean?

A) Study of rocks
B) Study of ancient life
C) Study of climate
D) Study of volcanoes

8. Which 17th-century scientist was one of the first to suggest that fossils were the remains of ancient organisms?

A) Robert Hooke
B) Isaac Newton
C) Gregor Mendel
D) Carl Linnaeus

9. What is the definition of a trace fossil?

A) A preserved bone
B) A footprint or burrow
C) A complete skeleton
D) A fossilized egg

10. The process by which organic material is replaced by minerals to form a fossil is called what?

A) Erosion
B) Petrifaction
C) Sedimentation
D) Volcanism

11. Which era is commonly referred to as the 'Age of Reptiles'?

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

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12. Who published 'Principles of Geology', a book that influenced early palaeontological thought?

A) Charles Lyell
B) Charles Darwin
C) James Hutton
D) William Smith

13. The first geological map of England and Wales, showing fossil distributions, was created by whom?

A) William Smith
B) John Phillips
C) Mary Anning
D) Richard Owen

14. What is the study of fossilized plants called?

A) Paleoanthropology
B) Paleobotany
C) Palynology
D) Geology

15. Which type of rock are most fossils typically found in?

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

16. What was the first dinosaur to be formally named in a scientific publication?

A) Megalosaurus
B) Triceratops
C) Brachiosaurus
D) Velociraptor

17. The 'Bone Wars' was a period of intense fossil hunting competition between which two men?

A) Darwin and Wallace
B) Marsh and Cope
C) Owen and Mantell
D) Smith and Lyell

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18. What major event is often associated with the disappearance of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous?

A) Ice Age
B) Asteroid impact
C) Human hunting
D) Continental drift

19. Which scientist is known for developing the theory of 'catastrophism' to explain fossil records?

A) Georges Cuvier
B) Charles Darwin
C) James Hutton
D) Louis Agassiz

20. Amber is a type of fossilization that preserves what?

A) Entire organisms in resin
B) Only bones
C) Only leaves
D) Only teeth

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