

Palaeontology Foundations

Palaeontology · Practice Test · 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

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) Petrification
- C) Sedimentation
- D) Volcanism

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

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

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

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