Palaeontology Knowledge Challenge

Palaeontology · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which geological period is often called the 'Age of Cycads' due to the abundance of these seed plants?

A) Triassic
B) Jurassic
C) Cretaceous
D) Devonian

2. The iconic 'Spinosaurus' is characterized by which distinct physical feature?

A) A long, club-like tail
B) A large sail-like structure on its back
C) Three horns on its skull
D) Feathered wings

3. Which group of prehistoric marine reptiles had a body shape remarkably similar to modern dolphins due to convergent evolution?

A) Plesiosaurs
B) Mosasaurs
C) Ichthyosaurs
D) Placodonts

4. What substance is most commonly used to preserve soft-tissue fossils in the Lagerstätten sites?

A) Amber
B) Ice
C) Volcanic ash
D) Sedimentary clay

5. The 'Great Dying', or the Permian-Triassic extinction event, resulted in the loss of what percentage of marine species?

A) Approximately 96%
B) Approximately 50%
C) Approximately 25%
D) Approximately 10%

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6. Which type of fossil is formed when an organism is covered in sediment and then decays, leaving a cavity that is later filled with minerals?

A) Replacement fossil
B) Cast fossil
C) Carbon film
D) Trace fossil

7. What is the primary distinguishing feature of 'Ornithischian' dinosaurs?

A) A bird-like hip structure
B) Long, sharp claws
C) Large, flat teeth for grinding
D) A bipedal stance only

8. Which prehistoric animal, often called the 'Terror Bird', was a top predator in South America after the extinction of the dinosaurs?

A) Phorusrhacidae
B) Archaeopteryx
C) Microraptor
D) Hesperornis

9. The fossil 'Tiktaalik' is considered a significant evolutionary transition between which two groups?

A) Fish and amphibians
B) Amphibians and reptiles
C) Reptiles and birds
D) Birds and mammals

10. What is the scientific name for the fossilized trackways, nests, or burrows left behind by ancient organisms?

A) Body fossils
B) Trace fossils
C) Pseudofossils
D) Index fossils

11. Which prehistoric mammal, known for its massive curved tusks, lived during the Pleistocene epoch?

A) Woolly Mammoth
B) Saber-toothed Cat
C) Giant Ground Sloth
D) Dire Wolf

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12. The Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event, which ended the reign of non-avian dinosaurs, was likely triggered by an impact in which modern-day location?

A) Australia

B) Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico

C) Sahara Desert

D) Himalayan Mountains

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