Milestones in Biological Discovery

Biology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Who is credited with being the first person to observe and describe 'cells' using a primitive compound microscope in 1665?

A) Robert Hooke
B) Antonie van Leeuwenhoek
C) Theodor Schwann
D) Louis Pasteur

2. In 1859, Charles Darwin published his groundbreaking theory of evolution by natural selection in which book?

A) The Voyage of the Beagle
B) On the Origin of Species
C) The Descent of Man
D) Principles of Geology

3. Which scientist is famously known for discovering the structure of DNA, specifically the double helix model, in 1953?

A) Rosalind Franklin
B) Barbara McClintock
C) James Watson and Francis Crick
D) Gregor Mendel

4. Who is often referred to as the 'father of genetics' for his experiments with pea plants in the 19th century?

A) Thomas Hunt Morgan
B) Gregor Mendel
C) Hugo de Vries
D) Carl Correns

5. Which biologist is recognized for pioneering the germ theory of disease and inventing the process of pasteurization?

A) Robert Koch
B) Edward Jenner
C) Louis Pasteur
D) Joseph Lister

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6. What was the first organism to have its entire genome sequenced in 1995?

A) Escherichia coli
B) Haemophilus influenzae
C) Drosophila melanogaster
D) Saccharomyces cerevisiae

7. In 1796, Edward Jenner developed the first successful vaccine, which targeted which disease?

A) Smallpox
B) Polio
C) Rabies
D) Tuberculosis

8. Who was the first person to observe bacteria and protozoa under a microscope, calling them 'animalcules'?

A) Robert Hooke
B) Antonie van Leeuwenhoek
C) Matthias Schleiden
D) Rudolf Virchow

9. The discovery of penicillin, the first true antibiotic, is credited to which scientist in 1928?

A) Howard Florey
B) Ernst Chain
C) Alexander Fleming
D) Selman Waksman

10. Which biologist proposed the theory of 'endosymbiosis,' suggesting that mitochondria and chloroplasts originated from independent prokaryotic organisms?

A) Lynn Margulis
B) Carl Woese
C) Stephen Jay Gould
D) Richard Dawkins

11. What biological molecule was first crystallized by James B. Sumner in 1926, proving it was a protein?

A) DNA
B) Hemoglobin
C) Urease
D) Insulin

12. Who was the first to demonstrate that DNA, not protein, is the genetic material in bacteria in 1944?

A) Oswald Avery
B) Frederick Griffith
C) Alfred Hershey
D) Martha Chase

13. In 1996, 'Dolly the sheep' became the first mammal to be successfully cloned from an adult somatic cell. Which research institute achieved this?

A) The Pasteur Institute
B) The Roslin Institute
C) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
D) The Max Planck Institute

14. Which naturalist proposed a theory of evolution involving 'inheritance of acquired characteristics' before Darwin?

A) Jean-Baptiste Lamarck
B) Alfred Russel Wallace
C) Georges Cuvier
D) Charles Lyell

15. The first synthesis of an organic compound from inorganic materials, urea, was achieved by whom in 1828?

A) Friedrich Wöhler
B) Justus von Liebig
C) August Kekulé
D) Louis Pasteur

16. Who coined the term 'cell' while observing cork tissue?

A) Robert Hooke
B) Anton van Leeuwenhoek
C) Robert Brown
D) Matthias Schleiden

17. Which scientist discovered the existence of transposable elements ('jumping genes') in maize?

A) Barbara McClintock
B) Sewall Wright
C) Ronald Fisher
D) Theodosius Dobzhansky

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18. Who performed the first human-to-human blood transfusion in the 17th century?

A) Jean-Baptiste Denys
B) William Harvey
C) Karl Landsteiner
D) Andreas Vesalius

19. Which researcher was the first to identify the link between smoking and lung cancer in a large-scale epidemiological study?

A) Richard Doll
B) Austin Bradford Hill
C) Both of the above
D) Neither of the above

20. The first successful organ transplant (a kidney) was performed in 1954 by which surgeon?

A) Joseph Murray
B) Christiaan Barnard
C) Norman Shumway
D) Alexis Carrel

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