

Earth and Life History
Geology Practice Questions

Name:

Period:

Try these practice questions by first using just your brain. Then make sure you got the answers right by checking in Chapter 8.

- _____ 1. Global climate change may have caused the extinction of which group of animals?
a. birds b. mammals c. dinosaurs d. insects

- _____ 2. What process compares one rock layer with others in a sequence?
a. radioactive decay b. radiometric dating c. relative dating d. absolute dating

- _____ 3. Molten rock that squeezes into existing rock and cools is called what?
a. folding b. fault c. intrusion d. tilting

- _____ 4. What is formed when sediment is lithified?
a. igneous rock b. metamorphic rock c. cement d. sedimentary rock

- _____ 5. What do scientists know about an undisturbed sequence of rocks based on superposition?
a. Older rocks are on top of younger rocks. c. Younger rocks are under older rocks.
b. Younger rocks are on top of older rocks. d. Older rocks have eroded away.

- _____ 6. What does the law of crosscutting relationships state?
a. A fault or body of rock is younger than the body of rock it passes through.
b. A fault or body of rock is older than the body of rock it passes through.
c. A fault or body of rock is the same age as the body of rock it passes through.
d. A body of rock is older than any faults that pass through it.

- _____ 7. Where are most fossils preserved?
a. in ice b. in amber c. in sedimentary rock d. in asphalt

- _____ 8. Which of the following represents a missing part of the geologic record?
a. unconformity b. fault c. superposition d. intrusion

Match the correct description with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

- _____ 9. the idea that geologic processes now are the same as those in the past a. paleontology
- _____ 10. the idea that geologic change happens suddenly b. uniformitarianism
- _____ 11. the study of past life c. modern geology
- _____ 12. the science that combines uniformitarianism and catastrophism d. catastrophism

Match the correct description with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.

- _____ 13. a break in Earth's crust a. folding
- _____ 14. rock layers bent by Earth's internal forces b. fault
- _____ 15. molten rock that has squeezed into existing rock and hardened c. tilting
- _____ 16. rock layers slanted by Earth's internal forces d. intrusion

turn over for more questions

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Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the sentence.

absolute dating half-life radioactive decay radiometric dating

17. Any method of measuring the age of an event or object in years is called _____ .

18. When radioactive isotopes break down into other elements, the process is called

_____ .

19. Finding the age of a rock based on the ratio of parent material to daughter material is called

_____ .

20. The time it takes for half of a radioactive substance to decay is its _____ .