

Earth and Life History

Name:

History of Life on Earth Practice Questions

Period:

Then make sure you got the answers right by checking in Chapter 9. When you find the answer, write the page number in the parentheses found after the question.

- _____ 1. During what mass extinction did all the dinosaurs die out? (p. _____)
a. Permian extinction
b. Triassic-Permian extinction
c. Cretaceous extinction
d. Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction
- _____ 2. How can *Phacops* fossils help show a rock layer is 400 million years old? (p. _____)
a. *Phacops* fossils are trace fossils.
b. *Phacops* fossils are South American fossils.
c. *Phacops* fossils are sedimentary fossils.
d. *Phacops* fossils are index fossils.
- _____ 3. What does the theory of plate tectonics help explain? (p. _____)
a. how mantle is formed
b. how Earth’s atmosphere formed
c. how tectonic plates move
d. how fossils are formed
- _____ 4. What do scientists use to divide Earth’s natural history into smaller pieces? (p. _____)
a. geologic time scale
b. fossil record
c. theory of plate tectonics
d. Precambrian time scale
- _____ 5. Where are fossils of the oldest life forms found? (p. _____)
a. in young rock layers
b. in old rock layers
c. in frozen tundra
d. in petrified wood
- _____ 6. How long ago did life first appear on Earth? (p. _____)
a. 3.6 million years
b. 36 million years
c. 360 million years
d. 3.6 billion years
- _____ 7. What term describes how continents have moved across Earth’s surface? (p. _____)
a. plate tectonics
b. continental drift
c. continental theory
d. tectonic drift
- _____ 8. Why is the fossil record not complete? (p. _____)
a. There are too many fossils.
b. Every organism formed fossils.
c. Fossils have stopped forming.
d. Not every organism formed fossils.
- _____ 9. Why are *Mesosaurus* fossils found in South America and southwestern Africa? (p. _____)
a. The continents never separated.
b. *Mesosaurus* crossed a land bridge.
c. *Mesosaurus* could swim.
d. The continents were once joined.
- _____ 10. How did armadillos and opossums get from South America to North America? (p. _____)
a. They crossed the Panama Land Bridge.
b. They crossed the Panama Canal.
c. They crossed the Gulf of Mexico.
d. They crossed the Bering Land Bridge.

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

- _____ 11. era when new life forms appeared during the Cambrian explosion (p. _____) a. Mesozoic Era
- _____ 12. era when humans appeared (p. _____) b. Precambrian time
- _____ 13. time period when cyanobacteria put oxygen gas into oceans and air (p. _____) c. Cenozoic Era
- _____ 14. era when dinosaurs lived (p. _____) d. Paleozoic Era

turn over for more practice questions

Earth and Life History

Name:

History of Life on Earth Practice Questions

Period:

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

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| _____ 15. boundary at the San Andreas fault, where plates slide past each other (p. _____) | a. convergent boundary |
| _____ 16. boundary where tectonic plates move apart (p. _____) | b. plate boundary |
| _____ 17. boundary where continental lithosphere crumples to make mountain belts (p. _____) | c. transform boundary |
| _____ 18. any boundary where two or more tectonic plates meet (p. _____) | d. divergent boundary |

Use the terms from the following list to complete the sentences below.

amber coprolite asphalt sediment mold

19. For 38,000 years, organisms have been trapped and preserved at La Brea in deposits of _____ . (p. _____)
20. Insect fossils have been found in hardened tree sap called _____ . (p. _____)
21. A trace fossil formed from preserved animal dung is called a _____ . (p. _____)
22. Plants or animals buried in sediment leave a trace fossil called a _____ . (p. _____)
23. Fossils can be formed when hard parts of dead animals are covered with _____ . (p. _____)