



Quiz: Fossils

1. Fossils are:

- A only dinosaur bones and fern impressions made in rock
- B the carbonized remains of animals that were killed by an asteroid 20 000 years ago
- C direct evidence of organisms that lived more than 10 000 years ago

2. The unaltered remains of fossilized animals include:

- A petrified wood
- B carbon imprints of ferns
- C mummified and frozen remains

3. Fossilized insects have been found preserved in amber which is hardened:

- A tree resin
- B flower nectar
- C blood

4. In petrified wood, the original wood has been slowly replaced by:

- A another type of harder wood
- B preserving salts
- C minerals

5. Examples of imprints are:

- A drawings on rock made by prehistoric men
- B frozen remains of elephant-like mammoths
- C footprints and animal tracks

6. Casts are:

- A the remains of broken dinosaur bones
- B moulds that have been filled by another type of rock over time
- C the hollow remains of animal burrows

7. The scientific name for fossilized feces is:

- A coprolites
- B peat
- C no scientific name exists

8. Fossilized stomach contents may indicate:

- A social structures of animal groups
- B the diet of the animal and the vegetation type in its habitat
- C whether an animal walked, swam or flew

9. Larger fossil animals are thought to be:

- A adults or males
- B the most common type of animal that existed throughout earth's living past
- C extinct because they ate too much

10. Scientists who study fossils are:

- A fossilologists
- B palaeontologists
- C reptilologists

11. The assumption that the earth's geological changes (e.g. volcanoes, erosion) probably occurred at a similar rate throughout earth's history is the:

- A Theory of Plate Tectonics
- B Law of Cause and Effect
- C Law of Uniform Change

12. The Law of Superposition states that:

- A older rocks are found deeper in the earth's crust than younger rocks
- B carnivorous dinosaurs were more deadly than herbivorous dinosaurs
- C animals that evolved at a later time are more advanced than those from an earlier time

13. Index fossils are distinctive fossils that existed for only short time periods. They are used to:

- A alphabetize the names of new fossils that are found
- B indicate the age of certain layers of sedimentary rocks
- C determine the social structure of the larger dinosaurs of the Jurassic Period

14. The half-life of a radioactive element is:

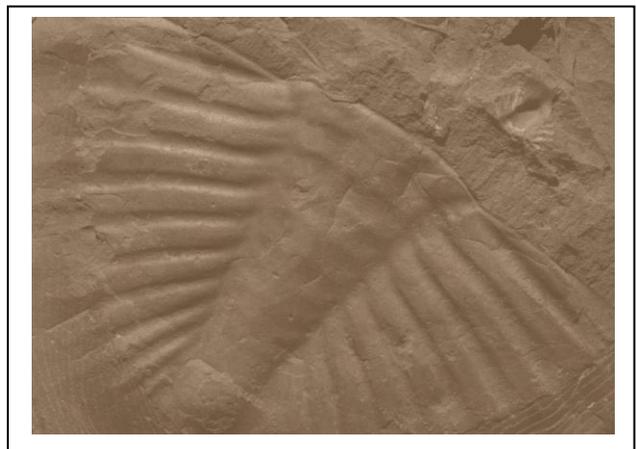
- A half the estimated age of the earth's crust
- B the time taken for half of the mass of the original element to break down
- C half the weight of the original radioactive element

15. The half-life of carbon-14 is about:

- A 80,000 years
- B 23,500 years
- C 5,730 years

Your Answers

- Q 1:
- Q 2:
- Q 3:
- Q 4:
- Q 5:
- Q 6:
- Q 7:
- Q 8:
- Q 9:
- Q10:
- Q11:
- Q12:
- Q13:
- Q14:
- Q15:



See front page for correct answers.