

Fossils and Geological Time Scale

Study Questions – Multiple Choice

1

What are Fossils?

- A. Plant seeds buried in lava
- B. Skeletons found only in caves
- C. Rock-like remains of organisms buried by sediment
- D. Pieces of meteorites

2

Why are only a tiny fraction of organisms preserved as fossils?

- A. All organisms become fossils
- B. Only reptiles fossilize
- C. Fossils can only form in ice
- D. Most decay or are eaten before fossilizing

3

What is a fossil record?

- A. Record of past life through fossils
- B. Ocean water levels over time
- C. Book of rock names
- D. List of dinosaur names

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What is the geologic time scale?

- A. Scale used to weigh rocks
- B. Fossil ruler
- C. Timeline of Earth's life history
- D. Height of mountains over time

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Where is the oldest fossil in Canada found?

- A. Toronto
- B. Vancouver Island
- C. Banff
- D. Yoho National Park

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How old is the oldest fossil in Canada?

- A. 2 million years
- B. 4.46 billion years
- C. 100 million years
- D. 200 thousand years

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What is relative dating?

- A. Reading fossils with a microscope
- B. Naming layers
- C. Using GPS
- D. Comparing ages of layers

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What does the Principle of Original Horizontality state?

- A. Layers are laid down flat
- B. Layers are vertical
- C. Layers curve at edges
- D. Layers form randomly

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What does the Principle of Superposition state?

- A. Older layers are at the bottom
- B. Igneous rock is youngest
- C. Top layers are older
- D. Layers are random

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What does the Principle of Original Continuity mean?

- A. Layers can't erode
- B. Only one layer exists
- C. Layers form as dots
- D. Layers spread across distances

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What does the Principle of Cross-Cutting say?

- A. Faults/intrusions are younger
- B. Top layers are older
- C. Bottom layers are metamorphic
- D. Layers can't move

12

What does Uniformitarianism mean?

- A. Sediment only moves by wind
- B. Only lava creates rocks
- C. Present processes happened in the past
- D. Earth never changed

13

What does the Principle of Inclusions state?

- A. All layers are the same
- B. Lava includes air
- C. Included pieces are older
- D. Rocks are soft inside

14

How has the fossil record helped us?

- A. Tells weather forecast
- B. Measures earthquakes
- C. Shows biodiversity changes
- D. Explains tides

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Answer Key

- | | |
|--------|-------|
| • 1. C | 8. A |
| • 2. D | 9. A |
| • 3. A | 10. D |
| • 4. C | 11. A |
| • 5. D | 12. C |
| • 6. B | 13. C |
| • 7. D | 14. C |

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