

Multiple Choice

1. How is the fossilized skeleton of a dinosaur similar to the modern skeleton of a lizard?
 - A. They are both small and two-legged
 - B. Both have hearts and lungs
 - C. They have backbones and tails
 - D. Their skin is the same color

2. Where are prehistoric animals preserved as whole animals?
 - A. in sedimentary rock
 - B. in amber
 - C. in obsidian
 - D. in oceans

3. Why is a fossil dinosaur bone much heavier than the original bone it was made from?
 - A. it has absorbed water
 - B. it is much older
 - C. much of it has dissolved
 - D. it is now made of minerals

4. Why are the soft parts of a shark's body not preserved as a fossil?
 - A. They are squeezed out when the shark is buried.
 - B. They are not made of mineral or rock.
 - C. They cannot be changed to rock.
 - D. They rotted before fossilization could occur.

5. Erin brought a piece of sandstone to school that had some ripples across it. What might have been preserved?
 - A. dinosaur footprints
 - B. wave marks
 - C. a dinosaur backbone
 - D. a leaf imprint

6. Which would be an example of a fossil?
- A. sedimentary rock
 - B. oyster pearl
 - C. dinosaur footprint
 - D. rotting log
7. Which rock type would be best for finding fossils?
- A. sedimentary
 - B. metamorphic
 - C. volcanic
 - D. igneous
8. How do we know different kinds of plants and animals lived in Utah a long time ago?
- A. Pictures were taken of them and put in books.
 - B. People told stories about them.
 - C. The plants and animals still live in Colorado.
 - D. We find fossils of them.
9. Which of the following animals used to live in Utah but does not now?
- A. buffalo
 - B. mountain lion
 - C. mammoth
 - D. dog
10. What do dinosaur tracks in coal beds tell us about the environment in Utah's past?
- A. Coal is made from dinosaurs.
 - B. Utah once had large swamps.
 - C. It was once much colder in Utah.
 - D. Dinosaurs lived in coal beds.
11. What is a common cause of plant and animal extinction?
- A. The climate changes.
 - B. They die out from over-eating.
 - C. They run out of homes to live in.
 - D. They are trapped and moved.

12. What evidence shows that parts of Utah were once the sea floor of an ancient ocean?

- A. Mammoth fossils found in Huntington Canyon
- B. Saber Tooth Tiger claws found in igneous rocks
- C. Trilobites found in limestone in Millard County
- D. Copper and gold found at the Kennecott mine

13. What might a scientist tell from seashell fossils found on top of a mountain?

- A. Sea creatures were eaten by animals there.
- B. The ocean was once very deep.
- C. The mountain was once part of an ocean bottom.
- D. Shelled animals once lived on mountain tops.

14. What have scientists learned about oceans from fossils?

- A. Oceans have changed very little over time.
- B. There is much more ocean life now than in the past.
- C. The Earth has not always had water.
- D. Oceans have changed in size and location.

Constructed Response

1. You have found a rock with an impression in it. How would you decide if it is a fossil?
2. Your friend takes you to the site of an ancient ocean for your fossil hunt. Write the name of two kinds of fossils you might find there.
3. Describe two ways a fossil bone is different from a recent bone.
4. How have people caused some animals, such as the wolf, to become extinct in Utah?
5. What are two questions you have about the extinction of dinosaurs?
6. Why are fossils found in sedimentary rock?
7. What type of climate does coal begin to form in?