

## Directed Reading A

### Section: Looking at Fossils

#### FOSSILIZED ORGANISMS

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What is the name for the trace or remains of an organism that lived long ago, most commonly preserved in sedimentary rock?
  - a. sediment
  - b. fossil
  - c. cast
  - d. mold
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Most fossils are preserved in
  - a. asphalt.
  - b. ice.
  - c. sedimentary rock.
  - d. igneous rock.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Which of the following organisms is commonly found preserved in rock?
  - a. clam
  - b. jellyfish
  - c. insect
  - d. worm
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Some of our best insect fossils are preserved in
  - a. amber.
  - b. rock.
  - c. ice.
  - d. asphalt.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which of the following is an example of an organism whose tissue has been replaced by minerals?
  - a. a shell preserved in rock
  - b. petrified wood
  - c. a frozen mammoth
  - d. an insect trapped in amber
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The La Brea asphalt deposits have been trapping and preserving organisms
  - a. for less than 10,000 years.
  - b. for less than 500 years.
  - c. for at least 38,000 years.
  - d. for 1 million years.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In 1999, scientists removed remains of a woolly mammoth from what material?
  - a. asphalt
  - b. ice
  - c. wood
  - d. amber

**Directed Reading A *continued***

**OTHER TYPES OF FOSSILS**

**Match the correct definition with the correct term. Write the letter in the space provided.**

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|---|-----------------|
| _____ 8. any naturally preserved evidence of an animal's activity         | a. mold         |
| _____ 9. a cavity in rock where a plant or animal was buried              | b. trace fossil |
| _____ 10. an object created when sediment fills a mold and becomes a rock | c. cast         |

**11. What can animal tracks tell about the animal that left them?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**12. What can a coprolite tell about the animal that left it?**

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\_\_\_\_\_

**USING FOSSILS TO INTERPRET THE PAST**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **13.** Which of the following statements about the fossil record is true?
- a. Most organisms never became fossils.
  - b. Scientists know more about organisms that had soft body parts than about organisms that had hard body parts.
  - c. Scientists have learned nothing about the history of life on earth from fossils.
  - d. The fossil record is complete.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **14.** The fossil record does NOT reveal information about which of the following?
- a. past climates
  - b. ancient seas
  - c. the solar system
  - d. environmental change

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directed Reading A continued**

**USING FOSSILS TO DATE ROCKS**

15. How is an index fossil useful to geologists in establishing the age of the rock layer in which they find it?

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16. Imagine that you found a *Tropites* fossil. How old is the rock surrounding it?

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17. Imagine that you found a *Phacops* fossil. How old is the rock surrounding it?

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# Vocabulary and Section Summary

## Looking at Fossils

### VOCABULARY

In your own words, write a definition of the following terms in the space provided.

1. fossil

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2. trace fossil

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3. mold

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4. cast

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5. index fossil

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