

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jurassic World vs. Reality: 9th Grade Fossil Record Mystery

Distinguish between cinematic fiction and geological facts by identifying preservation methods and interpreting the Law of Superposition in the Earth's crust.

1. Which principle suggests that in an undisturbed sequence of sedimentary rocks, the oldest layers are located at the bottom?

- A. The Principle of Uniformitarianism
- B. The Law of Superposition
- C. The Theory of Plate Tectonics
- D. The Law of Faunal Succession

2. The process where the pore spaces of a bone or shell are occupied by minerals from groundwater is known as _____.

- A. Permineralization
- B. Carbonization
- C. Mummification
- D. Oxidation

3. Index fossils are organisms that lived for a very long geological time across a very limited geographic area.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of these is considered a 'trace fossil' rather than a body fossil?

- A. A petrified shark tooth
- B. A fossilized leaf impression
- C. A coprolite (fossilized dung)
- D. A skull preserved in tar

5. Why is the fossil record considered 'incomplete' by geologists?

- A. Most organisms decompose or are eaten before they can be buried
- B. Rocks are constantly being recycled by the rock cycle
- C. Only organisms with hard parts like shells or bones fossilize easily
- D. All of the above

6. A(n) _____ is a thin film of carbon residue left behind in a rock, often revealing the delicate structure of leaves or fish.

- A. Cast
- B. Mold
- C. Carbon film

Name: _____ Date: _____

D. Inclusion

7. Absolute dating provides a specific age in years, whereas relative dating only determines the sequence of events.

- A. True
- B. False

8. If a geologist finds a fossil of a marine brachiopod in a rock layer on top of a mountain, what does this most likely indicate?

- A. The mountain was created by a volcanic eruption
- B. The area was once covered by an ocean
- C. The brachiopod evolved to live on land
- D. The fossil was moved there by a predator

9. When an organism decays completely inside a rock, it leaves a hollow space called a mold; if minerals later fill that space, it creates a _____.

- A. Petrification
- B. Cast
- C. Impression
- D. Unconformity

10. The Cenozoic Era is often referred to as the 'Age of Reptiles' because of the dominance of dinosaurs.

- A. True
- B. False