

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Glimpses into Geologic Giants: 8th Grade Fossil Quiz

Imagine peering through a dusty lens into the Devonian Era as you distinguish between cast fossils and ancient carbon films left by prehistoric life.

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**1. Which of the following is an example of an index fossil, used by geologists to determine the relative ages of rock layers?**

- A. A common piece of quartz found in many layers
- B. A species that lived for a very short period over a wide area
- C. A fossilized tree trunk that took millions of years to grow
- D. A rare gemstone found only in one specific cave

**2. True or False: The Law of Superposition states that in undisturbed sedimentary rock, the oldest layers are found at the bottom.**

- A. True
- B. False

**3. A fossil consisting of a thin, dark coating of atoms on a rock surface is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Petrified remain
- B. Cast fossil
- C. Carbon film
- D. Trace fossil

**4. If a geologist finds a fossil of an ancient fern in an area that is currently a frozen tundra, what can they conclude about the area's history?**

- A. The area has always been cold and frozen
- B. The area once had a much warmer, tropical climate
- C. Ferns can grow easily in ice and snow
- D. The fossil was moved there by modern humans

**5. True or False: Coprolites, which are fossilized animal droppings, are considered a type of body fossil.**

- A. True
- B. False

**6. Which geologic time division is the longest, covering about 88% of Earth's history?**

- A. The Paleozoic Era
- B. The Holocene Epoch
- C. The Precambrian Time
- D. The Mesozoic Era

**7. Fossilized tree sap that often traps and preserves ancient insects is called \_\_\_\_\_.**

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- A. Asphalt
- B. Tar
- C. Amber
- D. Resin

**8. What occurs when minerals seep into the pores of an organism's remains and turn them into stone?**

- A. Permineralization
- B. Erosion
- C. Freezing
- D. Carbonization

**9. An empty space in the shape of an organism left in a rock is a mold; a \_\_\_\_\_ is formed when sediment fills that mold.**

- A. Stalactite
- B. Cast
- C. Impression
- D. Core

**10. True or False: Geologists use the Geologic Time Scale to divide Earth's history based on major changes in life forms and geologic events.**

- A. True
- B. False