

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: What Clues Did Ancient Giants Leave Behind? 3rd Grade Fossil Quiz

Identify different types of fossils and understand how things like leaf imprints and petrified wood help us imagine Earth's long history.

1. What is a scientist called who studies fossils to learn about the past?

Answer: B) A paleontologist

Paleontologists are the specific scientists who dig up and study fossils to understand ancient life.

2. True or False: A leaf that leaves a mark in the mud can eventually turn into a fossil.

Answer: A) True

Fossils aren't just bones; they can also be imprints of plants or leaves left in sediment that hardens over time.

3. When minerals replace the wood in a fallen tree, it creates ___ wood.

Answer: C) petrified

Petrified wood is a type of fossil where the organic wood material has been replaced by hard minerals/stone.

4. Where are you MOST likely to find a fossil hidden in the ground?

Answer: B) Underneath layers of sedimentary rock

Sedimentary rock forms in layers over millions of years, which is the perfect environment to trap and preserve fossils.

5. True or False: Fossils show us that some animals from long ago look very similar to animals we see today.

Answer: A) True

Scientists compare fossils to living animals to see how much they have changed or stayed the same over history.

6. A fossilized footprint that shows how an animal walked is called a ___ fossil.

Answer: A) trace

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Trace fossils are clues like footprints, nests, or burrows rather than parts of the animal's actual body.

7. If a scientist finds a fish fossil in the middle of a dry desert, what does that tell us?

Answer: B) The desert was once covered by an ocean.

Fossils provide evidence of how environments change; marine fossils in a desert mean that area used to be underwater.

8. Most fossils are at least ___ years old.

Answer: C) 10,000

To be considered a fossil, the remains or traces usually need to be at least 10,000 years old.

9. True or False: Only the hard parts of an animal, like teeth or shells, usually become fossils.

Answer: A) True

Soft parts like skin or fur usually rot away before they can turn into rock, leaving only the hard parts behind.

10. Which of these would be a fossil found in the Earth's layers?

Answer: A) A piece of a shark tooth from 1 million years ago

Fossils must be ancient remains of living things, like a million-year-old shark tooth.