

Study Island

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1. The picture below shows a fossil of a bird-like animal called *Archaeopteryx*. Scientists think the animal lived about 145 million years ago. *Archaeopteryx* had much in common with dinosaurs like *Velociraptor*, but it also had wings and feathers.



Based on this information, *Archaeopteryx* may have been

- A. too small to see without a microscope.
- B. similar to the birds that are alive today.
- C. exactly like the lizards that are alive today.
- D. ground-dwellers that lived and hunted only on land.

2. The image on the left is the fossilized skeleton of an extinct ground sloth. The image on the right is its modern-day relative, the tree sloth.



How are the ground sloth and the tree sloth different?

- A. The ground sloth was much larger than the modern tree sloth.
- B. The ground sloth had powerful arms and legs on which it stood.
- C. The ground sloth had a tail that could help it balance.
- D. all of these

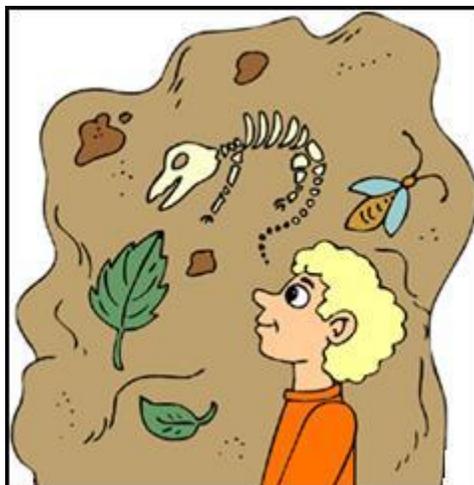
3. On the left is a drawing of the skull of a lynx, a medium-sized wild cat. On the right is the fossil of an animal that has been extinct for 10,000 years. The fossilized skull is much, much larger than the skull of a lynx.



How are the two animals whose skulls are shown above different?

- A. One is a cat; the other is not.
 - B. Only one has teeth that are designed for eating meat.
 - C. One preferred larger prey than the other.
 - D. all of these
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4.



The piece of rock in the picture is a fossil that was found in the desert. What detail about the fossil would show that the desert used to be a forest?

- A. The fossil is brown, rounded, and 6 feet tall.
 - B. The animal in the fossil is a lizard that lives in the desert.
 - C. Andrew spent all afternoon looking at the fossil.
 - D. There are leaves in the fossil that are from an oak tree.
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5. The tooth fossil in the picture came from a shark. That shark is known to have lived only in the ocean.



What would it mean if the shark tooth fossil had been found in the Rocky Mountains?

- A. that the ocean used to be a desert
 - B. that the Rocky Mountain area used to be a desert
 - C. that the wind had blown the fossil into the mountains
 - D. that the rocks in the mountains had once been under water
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6. The fossil on the left, below, is from an organism that lived in the ocean over 23 million years ago. The fossilized organism is believed to be in the same family as the stingray shown on the right.



Which of the following best describes how stingrays compare to their ancient ancestors?

- A. Stingrays are very similar to their ancient ancestors.
 - B. Stingrays swim, but their ancestors had limbs.
 - C. Stingrays have tails while their ancestors did not.
 - D. Stingrays are shaped very differently from their ancestors.
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7. The drawing below shows how *Archaeopteryx*, an extinct dinosaur, would have looked.



Which animal living today looks most like *Archaeopteryx*?

- A. a frog
 - B. a deer
 - C. a bird
 - D. a snake
-

8. The drawing below shows a prehistoric animal called a phytosaur. Phytosaurs are now extinct.



Which animal living today looks most like the phytosaur?



W.



X.



Y.



Z.

- A. Y
 - B. Z
 - C. X
 - D. W
-

9. No one has ever seen a living dinosaur. Paleontologists must make predictions about what dinosaurs were like based on the fossilized bones that they find.



Why might a paleontologist think that the dinosaur in the photo lived on land?

- A. Its fossils were found in a rock layer on the bottom of the ocean.
 - B. It has body structures that are similar to living animals that are found on land.
 - C. Its fossils were found in the same rock layer as a kind of fish.
 - D. It has body structures that are similar to living animals that are found in the ocean.
-

10.



The fossil above looks much like modern day fish. Which of the following environments did this organism most likely live in?

- A. a body of water
 - B. a hot, dry desert
 - C. a cold, snowy mountain
 - D. a tropical rainforest
-

11. A scientist found a fossil made by a plant. The plant looked much like a pine tree. The plant that made the fossil most likely

- A. lived in sandy soil like the soil that cacti live in today.
 - B. lived in the deeper parts of the ocean.
 - C. lived in climates like the climates pine trees live in today.
 - D. lived in shallow lake water.
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12. Woolly mammoths were large prehistoric animals that lived in very cold areas, known as tundras.

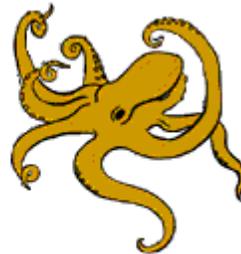
If fossils of many woolly mammoths were found in an area that is now a warm desert, what is likely true of that area?

- A. The area was home to all prehistoric animals.
 - B. The area was once very cold.
 - C. The area has always been a warm desert.
 - D. The area was once a large ocean.
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13. Scientists have found many fossil remains of an animal called an ammonite. This organism lived millions of years ago, but it is now extinct. A picture of what an ammonite might have looked like is shown below on the left.



ammonite



octopus

On the right is a picture of an octopus, which is a living relative of the ammonite. What conclusion can be drawn based on the pictures of the two animals?

- A. Fossils are not helpful in learning which organisms might be related.
 - B. Organisms living today have nothing in common with organisms that lived long ago.
 - C. Organisms living today will probably be extinct in ten years.
 - D. Organisms living today may be similar to organisms that lived long ago.
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14.

Tiktaalik, shown below, was an ancient creature that had fins, gills, and scales like a fish. It was able to support its weight on its front fins and do "push ups." This fossil is not complete.



Image courtesy of Eduard Solà

Compare *tiktaalik* to the modern fish (left, below) and the crocodile (right, below). Fish can breathe underwater using their gills.

You can see the crocodile's nostrils near the end of its snout. Crocodiles breathe air, and they can lift themselves up on their legs in order to walk or run on land.



Image courtesy of the USGS



Image courtesy of the NPS

Tiktaalik was like a crocodile in that it _____, but it was like a fish in that it _____.

- A. could breathe underwater; had scales
 - B. had a skull; had wrists
 - C. could swim; could do push ups
 - D. could do push ups; could breathe underwater
-

15. Look at the fossil in the picture below.



Scientists believe that this fossilized organism lived in an ocean environment. Which of the following most likely explains why?

- A. The fossil has structures that would be useful for swimming in the water.
 - B. The fossil has the same lifespan as animals that live in the ocean today.
 - C. The fossil eats the same food as animals that live in the ocean today.
 - D. The fossil looks much like some of the organisms that live in the ocean today.
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