

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading B

Section: Looking at Fossils (pp. 264–269)

FOSSILIZED ORGANISMS

- _____ 1. The trace or remains of an organism that lived long ago, most commonly preserved in sedimentary rock, is a
- a. rock.
 - b. fossil.
 - c. meteorite.
 - d. trace element.

2. Describe how organisms are preserved in sedimentary rock.

3. Soft, sticky tree sap that can trap insects, frogs, and lizards, then harden is called _____.

4. Why are many frozen fossils preserved from the last ice age?

5. How long have the La Brea asphalt deposits preserved trapped organisms?

6. The process in which minerals replace the pore space in an organism's hard tissue, or all an organism's tissues, is called _____.

OTHER TYPES OF FOSSILS

7. What is a trace fossil?

Directed Reading B *continued*

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| _____ 8. trace fossil that can show how big an animal was and how fast it was moving | a. mold |
| _____ 9. trace fossil formed by the shelter of an animal, such as a clam, that buries itself in sediment | b. coprolite |
| _____ 10. trace fossil formed from preserved animal dung | c. footprint |
| _____ 11. the impression left in sediment or rock where a plant or animal was buried | d. cast |
| _____ 12. an object formed when sediment fills a mold and becomes rock | e. burrow |

USING FOSSILS TO INTERPRET THE PAST

13. The history of life in the geologic past as indicated by the traces or remains of living things is the _____.

14. What are two reasons that the fossil record is incomplete?

15. In what kind of environment were marine fossils found on mountains in the Yoho National Park in Canada formed?

16. How does fossil evidence of forests and freshwater organisms in Antarctica show that the climate there was warmer in the past?

17. What are two things scientists compare to help them interpret how life has changed over time?

DATING THE FOSSIL RECORD

_____ **18.** Compared to fossils of organisms that lived more recently, fossils of more ancient life forms are found

- a.** in younger rock layers.
- b.** in older rock layers.
- c.** on top of rocks.
- d.** in either young or old rock layers.

Directed Reading B *continued*

- _____ **19.** How do scientists find out the age of an index fossil?
- a.** They date only the rock layer above the fossil.
 - b.** They date only the rock layer below the fossil.
 - c.** They date the rock layers above and below the fossil.
 - d.** They compare the fossil to present-day organisms.
- _____ **20.** Which of the following is NOT true of index fossils?
- a.** They appear only in certain rock layers.
 - b.** They appear all over the world.
 - c.** They were organisms that lived during a short, well-defined geologic time span.
 - d.** They are hard to identify.
- _____ **21.** What do scientists use index fossils for?
- a.** to date the rock layers they are found in
 - b.** to learn about the ocean floor
 - c.** to learn about the minerals they are found in
 - d.** to learn what ancient organisms ate
- 22.** About how old are the rock layers where fossils of *Phacops*, a kind of trilobite, are found? How do scientists know?

- 23.** About how long ago did ammonites called *Tropites* live?
