



Name: _____ Date: _____

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Part 1: Getting into the Fossil Record

1. What are fossils?

2. What are two types of fossils commonly found on the Earth's surface?

3. Why are dead organisms that get buried quickly more likely to be preserved and become fossils?

4. In what environments are fossils most likely to form?

5. In what type of rocks are most fossils found?

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Part II: Geologic Time

6. List three things that fossils can tell us about past events.

7. Are older fossils found above or below younger fossils in sedimentary rock deposits? Why?

8. Give the time period when these organisms were alive.

Bivalve: _____

Ammonite: _____

Foraminifer: _____

9. What kind of fossils were found on Mt. Diablo? What conclusions did scientists form about Mt. Diablo's past environment from these fossils?

Part III: Past Lives

10. Growth rings can tell us how long some organisms other than trees have lived. (Circle the correct answer below.)

True

OR

False



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11. What modern day organism do paleontologists compare to fossilized trilobites? What defense mechanism did these two organisms have in common?

Part IV: Paleoecology

12. What is paleoecology?

13. How do scientists explain finding fossils of marine animals in desert rocks?

14. Why do paleontologists study the shape of fossil leaves?

15. What are three things fossils can tell us about past environments?

