

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ HOUR \_\_\_\_\_

**FOSSIL DATING – PAGES 3 – 10**

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AFTER YOU READ THE ARTICLE IN YOUR TEXT.

1. What is geologic time?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_ are evidence of ancient life.

\_\_\_\_\_ are rocks made from parts of the organism.

List examples:

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3. What are trace fossils? Explain and list examples.

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4. Is the Trilobite fossil on page 2 a body fossil or a trace fossil? Explain.

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5. What type of rocks contain fossils? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Explain the basic process of fossilization described on page 4.

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7. Fossils are relatively rare. Why don't we find more?

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8. What is the Principle of Superposition?

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9. How does this law help paleontologists?

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10. Look at the diagram on page 5. Which fossil is the youngest? \_\_\_\_\_

Which ones are the oldest?

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11. Sketch and label the diagram on page 6 in the box below.



12. How do radioactive isotopes help us to date fossils?

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13. Carbon 14 has a half-life of \_\_\_\_\_.

How do paleontologists use this isotope to date fossils?

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14. Why isn't Carbon 14 used to date rock that is millions of years old?

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15. Geologists and paleontologists use \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ to estimate the ages of

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

16. What is the geologic time scale?

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17. The Geologic time scale is broken up into eras based on

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18. Describe the 3 main eras of the Geologic Time Scale:

A. Paleozoic Era

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B. Mesozoic Era

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C. Cenozoic Era

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19. Is the Geologic Time Scale "set in stone" (so punny!) Explain.

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