

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading

Section: The Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras

_____ 1. How many marine organisms died at the end of the Permian Period?

- a. 50%
- b. 78%
- c. 90%
- d. 100%

_____ 2. How many land organisms died at the end of the Permian Period?

- a. 50%
- b. 78%
- c. 90%
- d. 100%

_____ 3. What occurs during a mass extinction?

- a. All species die off.
- b. Large numbers of species die off.
- c. Organisms adapt to environmental change.
- d. Most life-forms survive.

4. Why did an abundance of new life-forms appear after the mass extinction of the Permian Period?

THE MESOZOIC ERA

5. When did the Mesozoic Era begin?

6. When did the Mesozoic Era end?

7. What happened to Pangaea during the Mesozoic Era?

8. What caused mountain ranges to form during the Mesozoic Era?

9. Describe the landscape and climate during the Mesozoic Era.

Directed Reading *continued*

10. Name five kinds of animals that flourished during the Mesozoic Era.

11. What is another name for the Mesozoic Era?

12. How many periods is the Mesozoic Era divided into?

13. Triassic Period plants that resembled today's palm trees are called

14. Reptiles that lived in the oceans during the Triassic Period were called

15. A type of shellfish that serves as a Mesozoic index fossil is called a(n)

16. What was the dominant life-form during the Jurassic Period?

In the space provided, write the letter of the description that best matches the term or phrase.

_____ **17.** ornithischian

a. a "bird-hipped" dinosaur

_____ **18.** Apatosaurus

b. a flying reptile with skin-covered wings

_____ **19.** saurischian

c. a saurischian weighing up to 50 tons

_____ **20.** pterosaur

d. a "lizard-hipped" dinosaur

_____ **21.** Stegosaurus

e. one of the best-known ornithischians

22. A dinosaur that was nearly 6 m tall and had teeth up to 15 cm long was called the _____.

23. A dinosaur with armor was called the _____.

Directed Reading *continued*

24. A dinosaur with a horn was called the _____.
25. A dinosaur with a bill like a duck was called the _____.
26. The earliest flowering plant, which appeared during the Cretaceous Period, was called a(n) _____.
27. Why have no dinosaur fossils been found in rocks formed after the Cretaceous Period?

28. What are two theories about the cause of the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period?

29. The theory that a giant meteorite crash caused the extinction of dinosaurs is called the _____.

30. A substance from meteorites that would have spread over Earth after a large meteorite crash is called _____.

THE CENOZOIC ERA

31. The geologic era that includes the present period is called the _____.

32. When did the Cenozoic Era begin?

33. What happened to Earth's continents during the Cenozoic Era?

34. What changes have occurred in Earth's climate during the Cenozoic Era?

35. Why is the Cenozoic Era called the Age of Mammals?

36. The period of the Cenozoic Era that includes the time before the last ice age is called the _____.

Directed Reading *continued*

37. The period of the Cenozoic Era that began with the last ice age and includes the present is called the _____.

38. Name the epochs of the Tertiary Period.

39. Name the epochs of the Quaternary Period.

40. When did the first primates evolve?

41. What happened to world temperatures at the end of the Eocene Epoch?

42. What caused the uplifting of the Himalayas?

43. Why did many grasses, cone-bearing trees, and hardwood trees grow during the Oligocene Epoch?

44. What climatic changes affected Antarctica during the Miocene Epoch?

45. When did the largest known land mammals live?

46. Name three examples of predators that evolved during the Pliocene Epoch.

Directed Reading *continued*

47. Why did the sea level fall toward the end of the Pliocene Epoch?

48. When did the Pleistocene Epoch begin?

49. In what epoch did animals have fur that helped them endure the cold?

50. When did the Holocene Epoch begin?

51. If the entire history of Earth is pictured as occurring in one year, on what date would dinosaurs have disappeared?
