Name: Date: Score: / 8

Fossil Clues: Learn and Practice

What fossils tell us about long ago

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Fossil Clues

- Fossils are remains or traces of living things from long ago.
- They tell us what lived in a place and what the place was like.
- A fish fossil on dry land tells us water once covered that place.
- seashell fossils on a mountain: the land was once under the sea

1 🪸 Coral fossils are found far from any ocean. Coral lives in...

A. Dry deserts B. Dark caves

C. Snowy mountains D. Warm, shallow seas

2 🦖 A dinosaur footprint in rock is a fossil because it shows...

A. A new road B. What we ate today

C. Signs of life long ago D. Today's weather

3 A scientist who studies fossils is called a...

A. Chef B. Palaeontologist C. Astronaut

D. Pilot

4 Fossils are most often found in which kind of rock?

A. Lava rock B. Glass C. Ice

D. Sedimentary rock

5 🌴 Fossils of palm leaves are found in a place that is cold today. That place was once...

A. Much warmer B. Under thick ice

C. On the Moon D. Always frozen

6 What is a fossil?

A. A kind of cloud B. A shiny new rock

C. Remains or traces of very old life

D. A living plant

7 🐟 Fish fossils are found in a desert. What does this tell us?

A. Water once covered that place B. Fish can fly

C. Fish live in deserts now D. Deserts make fish

8 🐚 Which of these could be a fossil?

A. A coin from last year

B. A shell print in old rock C. A fresh leaf

D. A plastic toy

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about fossil clues.

ANSWER KEY

Fossil Clues: Learn and Practice (answers)

What fossils tell us about long ago

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 🪸 Coral fossils are found far from any ocean. Coral lives in...

A. Dry deserts B. Dark caves
C. Snowy mountains **D. Warm, shallow seas**

Coral grows in warm, shallow seas, so that land was once covered by a sea.

2 🦖 A dinosaur footprint in rock is a fossil because it shows...

A. A new road B. What we ate today
C. Signs of life long ago D. Today's weather

Even a footprint is a fossil. It is a trace left by an animal that lived long ago.

3 A scientist who studies fossils is called a...

A. Chef **B. Palaeontologist** C. Astronaut
D. Pilot

Palaeontologists dig up and study fossils to learn about life long ago.

4 Fossils are most often found in which kind of rock?

A. Lava rock B. Glass C. Ice
D. Sedimentary rock

Sedimentary rock forms from layers of mud and sand that can bury and save remains.

5 🌴 Fossils of palm leaves are found in a place that is cold today. That place was once...

A. Much warmer B. Under thick ice
C. On the Moon D. Always frozen

Palm trees grow in warm places, so the fossils tell us the climate there used to be warm.

6 What is a fossil?

A. A kind of cloud B. A shiny new rock
C. Remains or traces of very old life
D. A living plant

Fossils are bones, shells, prints or other traces of living things preserved from long ago.

7 🐟 Fish fossils are found in a desert. What does this tell us?

A. Water once covered that place B. Fish can fly
C. Fish live in deserts now D. Deserts make fish

Fish need water, so their fossils show the desert was once a lake or sea.

8 🐚 Which of these could be a fossil?

A. A coin from last year
B. A shell print in old rock C. A fresh leaf
D. A plastic toy

A shell print in rock is a trace of life from long ago. The others are new or not alive.