Name: Date: Score: / 8

Geologic Time Scale: Learn and Practice

Read the story of Earth in its rock layers.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Geologic Time

- Earth is about 4.6 billion years old.
- Scientists divide this history into eons, eras, periods and epochs.
- Rock layers and fossils help us put events in order.
- lower layer, older rock: law of superposition

1 🌍 About how old is Earth?

A. About 6,000 years B. About 100 billion years
C. About 1 million years D. About 4.6 billion years

2 What is the geologic time scale?

A. A map of the oceans B. A tool to weigh rocks
C. A calendar for one year
D. A timeline of Earth's history

3 What do fossils in rock layers help scientists learn?

A. How hot the Sun is B. How deep the ocean is
C. How fast wind blows
D. What lived long ago and when

4 Which era do we live in today?

A. Mesozoic B. Jurassic C. Cenozoic
D. Paleozoic

5 What is the law of superposition?

A. Upper layers are always older
B. Layers form sideways
C. All layers are the same age
D. Lower layers are older than upper ones

6 What is an index fossil?

A. The largest fossil ever found
B. A fossil found in every layer
C. A fossil used to date rock layers
D. Any fossil of a plant

7 Which era is known as the age of dinosaurs?

A. Paleozoic B. Precambrian C. Cenozoic
D. Mesozoic

8 In undisturbed rock layers, where are the oldest layers?

A. At the top B. In the middle
C. Layers have no order D. At the bottom

✏️ Explain it! Write two facts you learned about geologic time scale.

ANSWER KEY

Geologic Time Scale: Learn and Practice (answers)

Read the story of Earth in its rock layers.

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 🌍 About how old is Earth?

A. About 6,000 years B. About 100 billion years

C. About 1 million years

D. About 4.6 billion years

Using the decay of atoms in rocks and meteorites, scientists find Earth is about 4.6 billion years old.

2 What is the geologic time scale?

A. A map of the oceans B. A tool to weigh rocks

C. A calendar for one year

D. A timeline of Earth's history

The geologic time scale divides Earth's long history into named chunks of time.

3 What do fossils in rock layers help scientists learn?

A. How hot the Sun is B. How deep the ocean is

C. How fast wind blows

D. What lived long ago and when

Fossils show what life existed, and the layer they are in shows roughly when it lived.

4 Which era do we live in today?

A. Mesozoic B. Jurassic **C. Cenozoic**

D. Paleozoic

We live in the Cenozoic era, which began after the dinosaurs died out. Jurassic is a period, not an era.

5 What is the law of superposition?

A. Upper layers are always older

B. Layers form sideways

C. All layers are the same age

D. Lower layers are older than upper ones

In undisturbed rock, each new layer is laid on top of older ones, so age increases as you go down.

6 What is an index fossil?

A. The largest fossil ever found

B. A fossil found in every layer

C. A fossil used to date rock layers

D. Any fossil of a plant

Index fossils come from life that spread widely but lived a short time, so they help date and match layers.

7 Which era is known as the age of dinosaurs?

A. Paleozoic B. Precambrian C. Cenozoic

D. Mesozoic

Dinosaurs lived during the Mesozoic era, which ended about 66 million years ago.

8 In undisturbed rock layers, where are the oldest layers?

A. At the top B. In the middle

C. Layers have no order **D. At the bottom**

Layers pile up over time like a stack of papers, so the bottom layers were laid down first.