

Fossil Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts

Printable Trivia Pack

Fossil trivia covers the science concept. Fossil Trivia uses a generated emoji collage hero visual. Expect a mix of easy, family-friendly, funny and hard questions so casual players and superfans can both jump in.

HARD FOSSIL TRIVIA

1. The Burgess Shale is dated to which slice of geologic time?

Answer: the middle Cambrian

2. Joggins Fossil Cliffs are especially celebrated for fossils from what period?

Answer: the Carboniferous Period

3. If a specimen comes from Florissant Fossil Beds, from which epoch is it most likely preserved?

Answer: the late Eocene

4. Ischigualasto Provincial Park is particularly known for preserving fossils from which time interval?

Answer: the Late Triassic

5. Olduvai Gorge is noted in this fact set for containing what kind of fossils in sedimentary layers?

Answer: hominin fossils

6. Most fossils from La Brea come from which part of the geologic timeline?

Answer: the late Pleistocene

7. The Spinosaurus fossils first described by Ernst Stromer came from which Egyptian region?

Answer: the Bahariya Oasis region

8. In the 1920s, the first scientifically recognized what were found in the Gobi Desert?

Answer: dinosaur eggs

9. Liaoning's exceptionally preserved Early Cretaceous fossils are collectively famous as what?

Answer: the Jehol Biota

10. The rocks at Dinosaur Provincial Park are mainly from which period?

Answer: the Late Cretaceous

11. Which basin in this set is highlighted as especially important for both Permian and Triassic fossils?

Answer: the Karoo Basin

12. Mary Anning is credited here with finding the first correctly identified skeletons of what marine reptile?

Answer: ichthyosaur

13. Gideon Mantell named Iguanodon in what year?

Answer: 1825

14. Richard Owen introduced the name Dinosauria in which year?

Answer: 1842

FUNNY FOSSIL TRIVIA

1. If an ancient animal left behind footprints instead of a skeleton, what kind of fossil is basically its old receipt of movement?

Answer: trace fossils

2. What do you call fossils that preserve actual parts of an organism, like bone, shell, or tooth, instead of just the drama it caused?

Answer: body fossils

3. Ancient insect trapped in hardened tree resin: what preservation superstar are we talking about?

Answer: amber

4. What forms when minerals replace the original wood tissue, turning a tree into a rock with excellent posture?

Answer: petrified wood

5. When the original organism dissolves away and leaves only an impression behind, what fossil type is that empty-seat version?

Answer: mold fossils

6. If minerals fill a mold and harden, creating a copy like nature ran a stone 3D printer, what fossil results?

Answer: cast fossils

7. What frozen ground can preserve Ice Age animals such as mammoths, basically giving them the longest nap ever?

Answer: permafrost

8. What sticky natural trap can preserve animals that got stuck in asphalt and definitely had a bad day?

Answer: tar pits

9. Why are shark skeletons less likely to fossilize neatly than bony skeletons?

Answer: They are mostly cartilage, which fossilizes less readily than bone.

10. If you were betting on what part of an organism is most likely to become a fossil, which would be the safest pick?

Answer: hard parts

11. True or false: Soft-tissue fossils are common because flesh tends to stick around forever like leftovers in the back of the fridge.?

Answer: False

12. Ancient footprints count as what kind of fossil: body fossil or trace fossil?

Answer: trace fossil

13. If an ancient animal dug a tunnel and the tunnel got preserved, what trace did it leave behind?

Answer: burrows

FUN FOSSIL TRIVIA

1. If Earth had a dramatic season finale 66 million years ago, which period was ending?

Answer: The Cretaceous Period.

2. When Allosaurus was stomping around North America, which interval was it especially associated with?

Answer: The Late Jurassic.

3. Name the era often nicknamed the 'Age of Mammals.'?

Answer: The Cenozoic Era.

4. Which writer dreamed up the novel that Jurassic Park was adapted from?

Answer: Michael Crichton.

5. Before it was a movie phenomenon, Jurassic Park came from a novel by whom?

Answer: Michael Crichton.

6. What BBC documentary series first aired in 1999 and brought prehistoric life to TV screens?

Answer: Walking with Dinosaurs.

7. Which book by Stephen Jay Gould is all about the Burgess Shale?

Answer: Wonderful Life.

8. A Burgess Shale reading assignment lands on your desk. Which title should you grab?

Answer: Wonderful Life.

9. Which science writer became famous for influential essays and books about fossils and evolution?

Answer: Stephen Jay Gould.

10. Which fossil site is especially famous for detailed fossil insects and plants?

Answer: Florissant Fossil Beds.

11. Which desert has produced fossils of giant crocodile-like reptiles and dinosaurs?

Answer: The Sahara Desert.

12. What region in Argentina is famous for many giant dinosaur discoveries?

Answer: Patagonia.

13. Which mountain region contains some of North America's most famous fossil localities?

Answer: The Canadian Rockies.

FOSSIL FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who is credited with discovering the first documented *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton in 1902?

Answer: Barnum Brown

2. The famous *T. rex* nicknamed Sue was discovered in 1990 by whom?

Answer: Sue Hendrickson

3. If you wanted to visit Sue the *T. rex* on display, which museum in Chicago would you go to?

Answer: Field Museum

4. In the Bone Wars, Edward Drinker Cope was the rival of which scientist?

Answer: Othniel Charles Marsh

5. Who was the other main rival in the Bone Wars alongside Edward Drinker Cope?

Answer: Othniel Charles Marsh

6. What was the name of the 19th-century rivalry between American fossil hunters?

Answer: Bone Wars

7. Which explorer led famous expeditions to the Gobi Desert?

Answer: Roy Chapman Andrews

8. Which paleontologist is especially known for dinosaur research connected with Mongolia and China?

Answer: Mark Norell

9. Which scientist became widely known for studying dinosaur growth and behavior?

Answer: Jack Horner

10. Which Canadian paleontologist is known for research on predatory dinosaurs?

Answer: Phil Currie

11. Who led fossil expeditions in the Sahara Desert?

Answer: Paul Sereno

12. Which Chinese paleontologist is associated with important dinosaur discoveries?

Answer: Dong Zhiming

EASY FOSSIL TRIVIA

1. A fossilized tooth or bone is what kind of fossil?

Answer: It is a body fossil.

2. What name is given to fossilized dung?

Answer: Coprolites are fossilized dung.

3. Which ancient marine animals are famous for their hard exoskeletons and common fossils?

Answer: Trilobites.

4. Smilodon is better known by what common name?

Answer: The saber-toothed cat.

5. Why is Megalodon mainly known from fossil teeth?

Answer: Because shark skeletons are mostly cartilage.

6. In which city are the La Brea Tar Pits located?

Answer: Los Angeles, California.

7. Most woolly mammoths lived during which epoch?

Answer: The Pleistocene Epoch.

8. Which period began more than 500 million years ago?

Answer: The Cambrian Period.

9. Which epoch came after the Paleocene in the Cenozoic Era?

Answer: The Eocene Epoch.

10. Who coined the word Dinosauria in the 19th century?

Answer: Richard Owen.

11. What does Tyrannosaurus rex mean?

Answer: "King of the tyrant lizards."

12. Which fossil hunter is closely associated with discoveries at Lyme Regis?

Answer: Mary Anning.

13. The Jurassic Coast lies on the coast of which country?

Answer: England.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/fossil>