

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. 70%
 - c. 90%
 - d. 100%

- _____ 2. How many land organisms died at the end of the Permian Period?
 - a. 50%
 - b. 70%
 - 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. List five kinds of animals that flourished during the Mesozoic Era.

11. What is another name for the Mesozoic Era?

12. Into how many periods is the Mesozoic Era divided?

13. Triassic plants that had thick stems and crowns of fernlike leaves were called _____.

14. A type of reptile that lived in the oceans during the Triassic Period was the _____.

15. A type of shellfish that serves as a Mesozoic index fossil is 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

_____ 18. *Apatosaurus*

_____ 19. saurischian

_____ 20. pterosaur

_____ 21. *Stegosaurus*

a. a "bird-hipped" dinosaur

b. a flying reptile with skin-covered wings

c. a saurischian weighing up to 50 tons

d. a "lizard-hipped" dinosaur

e. one of the best-known ornithischians

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

23. Dinosaurs with armor were called _____.

Directed Reading *continued*

24. Dinosaurs with horns were called _____.
25. Dinosaurs with bills like a duck's were called _____.
26. The earliest flowering plants, which appeared during the Cretaceous Period, were _____.
27. Why have no dinosaur fossils been found in rocks formed after the Cretaceous Period?
- _____
- _____
28. What are two hypotheses 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 certain chemical element is common in meteorites. This element was contained in dust that spread over Earth after a large meteorite impact. The element is _____.

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?
- _____

Directed Reading *continued*

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

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?

Directed Reading *continued*

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

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 were thick-furred animals able to 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?
