

Historical Geology: A Glimpse of the Earth's Past

Vocabulary Word Match

Directions: Match the letter of the definition with the correct definition by putting the letter in the blank.

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| ___ 1. relative dating | A. the gaseous portion of a planet |
| ___ 2. radiometric dating | B. a complex procedure of calculating the absolute ages of rocks |
| ___ 3. fossils | C. the division of Earth history into blocks of time - eons, eras, periods, and epochs |
| ___ 4. geologic time scale | D. the largest time unit on the geological time scale |
| ___ 5. eon | E. a major division on the geologic time scale that is a subdivision of an eon |
| ___ 6. paleontologist | F. a rock formed by the crystallization of molten magma |
| ___ 7. periods | G. covered with or affected by a glacier |
| ___ 8. atmosphere | H. all geologic time prior to the Phanerozoic eon |
| ___ 9. Precambrian | I. proposed super continent which 200 million years ago began to break apart and formed the present landmasses |
| ___ 10. igneous rock | J. a basic unit of the geologic time scale that is a subdivision of an era |
| ___ 11. stromatolites | K. that part of geologic time represented by rocks containing abundant fossil evidence |
| ___ 12. plate tectonics | L. the remains or traces of organisms preserved from the geologic past |
| ___ 13. Pangea | M. rocks are placed in their proper sequence of formation for dating |
| ___ 14. Phanerozoic eon | N. the theory which proposes that Earth's outer shell consists of individual plates which interact in various ways |
| ___ 15. glaciation | O. dome-like structures formed when sticky organic filaments of bacteria and algae trap mud |
| ___ 16. era | P. a scientist who studies fossils and the history of life on Earth |

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Discussion Questions

Directions: Following are questions to help you further understand the concepts presented in the program *Historical Geology: A Glimpse of the Earth's Past*. You may refer to your notes from your Interactivity Worksheets.

1. How do scientists discover information about the Earth's past?
2. What is the geologic time scale?
3. Identify some of the significant events, life forms, and environmental conditions that occurred during the Precambrian, approximately 4,600 million years ago to 544 million years ago.
4. Identify some of the significant events, life forms, and environmental conditions that occurred during the Paleozoic era, approximately 544 million years ago to 245 million years ago.
5. Identify some of the significant events, life forms, and environmental conditions that occurred during the Mesozoic era, approximately 245 million years ago to 65 million years ago.
6. Explain what type of events, life forms, and environmental conditions that are happening during the Cenozoic era, approximately 65 million years ago to the present.
7. Identify what types of events, life forms, and environmental conditions that have triggered the mass extinction of many life forms on the Earth.