

Middle & Recent Earth History (p. 408 - 413)

I. The Mesozoic Era

(Which came 1st
the chicken or
the egg)

1. Define the term Mesozoic Era.

Mesozoic Era - Era of middle life with many changes (dominated by reptiles)

2. What is the time span of the Mesozoic Era?

248 million years - 65 million years ago

3. What two large landmasses did Pangaea split into during the Mesozoic Era?

1. Laurasia (Northern) 2. Gondwanaland (Southern)

4. Circle the letter of the type of organism that was most successful during the Mesozoic Era

- a. Insects
- b. Fishes
- c. Amphibians
- (d) Reptiles

5. List two adaptations that enabled reptiles to adapt to drier climates of the Mesozoic Era.

1. Skin retains fluid 2. Amniotic Egg

6. All dinosaurs lived at the same throughout the Mesozoic Era.

Circle One :

True

(False)

(Is Jurassic Park an appropriate title?)

7. List four characteristics of dinosaurs that made them evolutionarily successful.

- 1. Fast Runners
- 2. Warm Blooded (Feathered Velociraptor)
- 3. Nurtured Their young (Maiasaura)
- 4. Traveled in herds

8. Match the Mesozoic Period with the correct evolutionary or geologic events.

1. C - Triassic

A. First angiosperms; Dinosaurs in strained environment

2. B - Jurassic

B. First birds appear; Dinosaurs are largest; Rocky Mts. rise

3. A - Cretaceous

C. First dinosaurs appear; First mammals appear

9. Some scientists believe that birds evolved from small, meat-eating dinosaurs.

Circle One :

(True)

False

Ex: Archaeopteryx

10. List two adaptations that enabled mammals to survive during the Mesozoic Era.

1. Warm-Blooded 2. Females produce milk

11. Define the term gymnosperm.

Gymnosperm - Plants that produce seeds, but not flowers
Ex: Pines, Spruces, Gingeleaves

12. Define the term angiosperm.

Angiosperm - Flowering plants that produce seeds with hard coverings
Ex: Oaks, Maples, Grasses

13. What is one hypothesis for the mass extinction at the end of the Cretaceous Period?

① An asteroid struck Earth ② Dust + Heavy clouds blocked sunlight ③ Plant eaters died with no food ④ Meat eaters died with no food

II. The Cenozoic Era

Other causes: Climate change
Natural selection - Volcanoes - glaciers

1. Define the term Cenozoic Era.

Cenozoic Era - Era of recent life (dominated by mammals).

2. What is the time span of the Cenozoic Era?

65 million years ago - present

3. Which three major mountain ranges formed during the Cenozoic Era?

1. Himalayan 2. Andes 3. Alps

4. Match the Cenozoic Period with the correct evolutionary or geologic events.

1. B - Tertiary

A. Humans dominate the planet; Neanderthal extinction

2. A - Quaternary

B. Mammals grow to huge sizes; Many different climates

(Indricotherium - largest land mammal ever!)

5. How did Earth's climate change in the Quaternary Period?

It changed from a warm, mild climate to a cool climate (Ice Ages: last about 10,000 yrs. ago)

6. How long ago did the first humans (*Homo sapiens*) appear?

140,000 years ago

(Neanderthals
EXTINCT 30,000
years ago
why?)