

DINOSAURS AND PALEONTOLOGY TRIVIA QUIZ



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1> The word dinosaur means?

- a. Lizard Monster
- b. Terrible Lizard
- c. Big Beast
- d. Extinct Lizard

2> Which is true of the triceratops?

- a. They were fast runners
- b. They lived about 10 million years ago
- c. Their diet consisted of vegetation
- d. They were about 10 feet long

3> First found near the Lena River in Siberia in 1806, by botanist Mikhail Adams, the woolly mammoth, aka *Mammuthus primigenius*, turned out to be an extinct species in what family?

- a. Rhinoceros
- b. Elephant
- c. Hippopotamus
- d. Tiger

4> There are two orders of dinosaurs - Saurischia and Ornithischia. What's the difference between them?

- a. Horse-footed vs cat-footed
- b. Insect-jawed vs fish-jawed
- c. Lizard-hipped vs bird-hipped
- d. Backboned vs non-backboned

5> Which of the following dinosaurs would have been the largest?

- a. Stegosaurus
- b. Barosaurus
- c. Citipati
- d. Scelidosaurus

6> Birds, mammals and flowering plants first appeared approximately 240 million to 65 million years ago, in what "Age of Reptiles"?

- a. Cenozoic Era
- b. Paleozoic Era
- c. Mesozoic Era
- d. Protozoic Era

7> Found fossilized in the rocks of the Jurassic age, Archaeopteryx is one of the oldest known examples of what animal?

- a. Fish
- b. Bird
- c. Arachnid
- d. Mammal

8> Herodotus may have been describing fossilized dinosaur skeletons when he wrote about what mythical eagle-lion hybrid?

- a. Basilisk
- b. Griffin
- c. Chimera
- d. Sphinx

9> In paleontology, the debate whether dinosaurs were endothermic or ectothermic is really a debate over what?

- a. Were they related to birds?
- b. How did they become extinct?
- c. Were they cold or warm-blooded?
- d. How did they get along with the Flintstones?

10> Although its name literally means "egg thief," what dinosaur hatched the first eggs ever discovered by human beings, in Mongolia in 1923?

- a. Megalodon
- b. Triceratops
- c. Oviraptor
- d. Tyrannosaurus rex

11> How would the different species of Ichthyosauria have gotten around?

- a. Flying
- b. On two feet
- c. Swimming
- d. On four feet

12> If you use dendrochronology to date something, what are you doing?

- a. Sketching water erosion in rocks
- b. Measuring carbon radiation
- c. Counting tree rings
- d. Studying teeth

13> What did the stegosaurus' diet consist of?

- a. Plants
- b. Plants and Animals
- c. Animals
- d. Unknown

Answers:

- 1> Terrible Lizard - Although the word dinosaur means 'terrible lizard', dinosaurs were not lizards.
- 2> Their diet consisted of vegetation - Triceratops literally means 'three horned face'.
- 3> Elephant - Woolly mammoths were not much larger than present-day African elephants.
- 4> Lizard-hipped vs bird-hipped - In 1888, Harry Seeley classified dinosaurs based on their hip structure into two orders named saurischia and ornithischia.
- 5> Barosaurus - Some Barosaurus adults measured more than 85 feet in length and weighed more than 22 tons.
- 6> Mesozoic Era - The Mesozoic era began in the wake of the Permian-Triassic event, the largest known mass extinction in Earth's history.
- 7> Bird - The Archaeopteryx lived around 150 million years ago in the late Jurassic period.
- 8> Griffin - Herodotus was a Greek historian who lived in the fifth century BC.
- 9> Were they cold or warm-blooded? - Ectothermic animals derive their source of body heat from the environment.
- 10> Oviraptor - The Oviraptor was first discovered by paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews in 1924.
- 11> Swimming - Ichthyosaurs were large marine reptiles that resembled dolphins.
- 12> Counting tree rings - In many types of wood, dendrochronology can date the time at which tree rings were formed to an exact calendar year.
- 13> Plants - Due to its size, the stegosaurus would have to eat lots of vegetation to meet its daily requirements.