

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What does **prehistoric** mean?
  - Ⓐ of or relating to the time before recorded or written history
  - Ⓑ having a segmented body, an exoskeleton, and jointed limbs
  - Ⓒ relating to the time before writing was invented
  - Ⓓ covered by ice sheets
2. What is the main idea of the "Giant Birds" section?
  - Ⓐ Terror birds are large predators that once lived on Earth.
  - Ⓑ *Gastornis* is a top predator.
  - Ⓒ *Phorusrhacos* hunts small animals.
  - Ⓓ *Gastornis* may weigh more than one ton.
3. How are *Cameroceras* different from giant fish?
  - Ⓐ They don't have backbones.
  - Ⓑ They don't live in the water.
  - Ⓒ They don't eat animals.
  - Ⓓ They don't live on land.
4. Why did animals that lived millions of years ago grow so much larger than the animals of today?
  - Ⓐ There was more water.
  - Ⓑ The atmosphere was hotter.
  - Ⓒ The air contained more oxygen.
  - Ⓓ The plants grew larger and provided more food.
5. Why did the author write this book as if the reader had traveled back in time?
  - Ⓐ to persuade the reader to compare animals
  - Ⓑ to entertain the reader by making the information come to life
  - Ⓒ to persuade the reader to further study these animals
  - Ⓓ to inform the reader about modern day animals

Quick Check continued on following page

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is a **species**?
  - Ⓐ a common prehistoric sea animal
  - Ⓑ large divisions of time in Earth's history
  - Ⓒ a group of living things that are physically similar
  - Ⓓ an animal without a backbone
7. What detail supports the main idea that giant reptiles once lived on Earth?
  - Ⓐ Terror birds are predators.
  - Ⓑ *Cymbospondylus* is a sea reptile with a huge head.
  - Ⓒ *Gigantopithecus* eats bamboo, fruit, seeds, and other plant food.
  - Ⓓ Very large animals are threatened by extinction.
8. How is *Leedsichthys*, the largest fish that ever lived, like a whale today?
  - Ⓐ They both breathe underwater.
  - Ⓑ They both have many thin teeth that help to strain their food.
  - Ⓒ They both live in small, shallow seas.
  - Ⓓ They both eat large animals.
9. Which of the following is a detail about *Megatherium*, the giant ground sloth?
  - Ⓐ It is almost seven feet long.
  - Ⓑ It is not related to sloths that live in South America today.
  - Ⓒ It is from the last ice age.
  - Ⓓ It can bury itself in muddy water.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

10. What effect did shallower waters have on *Leedsichthys*?

- Ⓐ it had more room in the ocean
- Ⓑ it had less available air
- Ⓒ it found more shellfish in the ocean
- Ⓓ the amount of available food decreased

11. **Extended Response:** What is the main idea of this book? How do the main idea and details of each section support the broader main idea?

12. **Extended Response:** Which of the prehistoric giants in this book reminds you of a present day animal? Compare and contrast the two creatures, and then identify which one you wish you could meet and explain why.

## Quick Check Answer Sheet

## Prehistoric Giants (Other Than Dinosaurs)

Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓒ Vocabulary
2. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
3. Ⓐ Compare and Contrast
4. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
5. Ⓑ Author's Purpose
6. Ⓒ Vocabulary
7. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
8. Ⓑ Compare and Contrast
9. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
11. Answers will vary somewhat but should include the following: *Millions of years ago there were many large, unusual animals living on earth that were not dinosaurs. The main ideas of each section further expand this topic by describing giant sea reptiles, invertebrates, insects, birds, and mammals that lived in prehistoric times. The details in each section described examples of all of these types of animals, creating a strong picture of the many different kinds of animals that lived with dinosaurs, and even before or after them.*
12. Answers will vary but should identify a prehistoric giant and a comparable contemporary animal. Answers will then describe similarities and differences between the two, and conclude with an explanation of which animal the student would rather meet and why.