

Name _____ Date _____

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

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| <p>1. What must an animal do to avoid extinction?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ adapt to changes in the environment Ⓑ leave evidence of prehistoric life Ⓒ become buried in sediment Ⓓ increase the mineral content of its bones | <p>2. Which of the following sentences from the book tells the main idea?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ <i>Some fossils are simple marks that an animal produced while moving, such as footprints or trails left in the ground.</i> Ⓑ <i>Dinosaurs roamed the Earth for more than 150 million years, but they were unable to adapt when environmental conditions changed about 65 million years ago.</i> Ⓒ <i>Paleontologists have learned about a wide variety of such extinct organisms from fossils—evidence of prehistoric life preserved in rock or other materials.</i> Ⓓ <i>Modern birds have a sternum with a protruding part where robust muscles used in flight are attached.</i> |
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3. Which words from the text help readers understand the effect of a **meteorite** impact 65 million years ago?
 - Ⓐ did not survive
 - Ⓑ more than 9,700 species
 - Ⓒ thriving from the frigid
 - Ⓓ lead scientists to theorize
4. What is a *rocky duplicate of an animal's skeleton*?
 - Ⓐ impression
 - Ⓑ sediment
 - Ⓒ fossil
 - Ⓓ decomposition
5. What does the diagram in the "Information from Fossils" section help readers understand?
 - Ⓐ The diagram shows how an animal turns into a fossil.
 - Ⓑ The diagram compares the bird and dinosaur bones.
 - Ⓒ The diagram explains the disappearance of the dinosaurs.
 - Ⓓ The diagram provides evidence of prehistoric life on Earth.
6. Which of the following is a detail that describes paleontologists?
 - Ⓐ They study space and can predict the next meteorite impact.
 - Ⓑ They lived in Europe about 145 million years ago.
 - Ⓒ They are carnivorous dinosaurs that were like birds in many ways.
 - Ⓓ They use different procedures to determine how old a fossil is.

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7. Which event likely happened last?
 - Ⓐ A dinosaur became buried in sediment.
 - Ⓑ The dinosaur's bones were replaced by minerals.
 - Ⓒ The species of dinosaur became extinct.
 - Ⓓ The dead dinosaur transformed into a fossil.
8. Which of the following is a detail about *hesperornis* and *ichthyornis*?
 - Ⓐ They are time periods in the past.
 - Ⓑ They were two kinds of aquatic birds.
 - Ⓒ They are the tools used to study fossils.
 - Ⓓ They were the largest of the dinosaurs.
9. Read the following detail from the book: *These fossils offer compelling evidence that birds descended from reptiles.* What idea does this sentence support?
 - Ⓐ Birds are really reptiles.
 - Ⓑ Reptiles are really birds.
 - Ⓒ Birds and reptiles look alike.
 - Ⓓ Birds developed from reptiles.
10. The _____ caused scientists to determine that the *Achaeopteryx* did not fly well.
 - Ⓐ absence of feathers
 - Ⓑ length of its wings
 - Ⓒ shape of its sternum
 - Ⓓ forked bone in its upper chest
11. **Extended Response:** Do you think "Early Birds: Fossils and Feathers" is a good title for this book? Use text evidence to support your answer.
12. **Extended Response:** What convinced scientists that modern-day birds descended from dinosaurs?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Early Birds: Fossils and Feathers

Main Comprehension Skill: Main Idea and Details

1. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
2. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
3. Ⓐ Vocabulary
4. Ⓒ Vocabulary
5. Ⓐ Author's Purpose
6. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
7. Ⓒ Sequence Events
8. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
9. Ⓓ Main Idea and Details
10. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
11. Answers will vary. Example: *No, I do not think "Early Birds: Fossils and Feathers" is a good title for this passage. That title focuses on birds. However, much of the passage was about fossils in general—not fossils that were specific to birds, although the author did point out that modern birds likely descended from a branch of dinosaurs. But, not all dinosaurs became birds! Still, I would have used a more general title, not one specific to birds.*
12. Answers will vary. Example: *Fossil evidence convinced scientists that modern-day birds descended from dinosaurs. Some dinosaur fossils show feathers and 4-clawed toes, both characteristics of modern birds. Also, from fossils scientists have learned that some dinosaurs had hollow bones and ran rapidly on two legs. Again, these are characteristics of birds, not reptiles.*