Dinosaurs and Fossils

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. Which living animals belong to the dinosaur branch of the animal family tree?
   A. Birds
   B. Bats
   C. Whales
   D. Frogs

2. What is the usual name for a scientist who studies prehistoric life through its fossils?
   A. Astronomer
   B. Meteorologist
   C. Paleontologist
   D. Seismologist

3. Which name belongs to a long-necked sauropod dinosaur?
   A. Triceratops
   B. Diplodocus
   C. Tyrannosaurus
   D. Stegosaurus

4. Which dinosaur is especially recognizable by three horns and a large bony frill?
   A. Velociraptor
   B. Diplodocus
   C. Stegosaurus
   D. Triceratops

5. What group of extinct flying reptiles lived alongside dinosaurs but was outside the dinosaur group?
   A. Sauropods
   B. Pterosaurs
   C. Ceratopsians
   D. Ornithopods

6. Which sequence places the three Mesozoic periods in order from earliest to latest?
   A. Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous
   B. Jurassic, Triassic, Cretaceous
   C. Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic
   D. Triassic, Cretaceous, Jurassic

7. Which fossil most directly records that an animal once stepped on a surface?
   A. A fragment of jawbone
   B. An isolated tooth
   C. A loose piece of eggshell
   D. A footprint impressed into ancient sediment

8. What does a dinosaur embryo preserved inside a fossil egg directly establish about that animal?
   A. Its parents lived underground.
   B. It hunted in a pack.
   C. It developed in an egg.
   D. It could fly as an adult.

9. Which fossil feature would be most useful when testing how Triceratops processed plant material?
   A. The shape and wear of its teeth
   B. The length of a nearby fossil footprint
   C. The color of the layer above the skeleton
   D. The number of rocks displayed in the museum case

10. Where would a paleontologist most reasonably begin looking for intact Mesozoic bones in the field?
   A. A glacier formed in the past decade
   B. A recently solidified lava flow
   C. A freshly paved highway
   D. An exposed sedimentary layer of Mesozoic age

11. Roughly when did the last non-avian dinosaurs disappear?
   A. 660,000 years ago
   B. 6,600 years ago
   C. 66 million years ago
   D. 660 million years ago

12. What can a sequence of consecutive footprints from one individual help estimate more directly than a single print can?
   A. Its precise color
   B. Its stride length
   C. The number of eggs it laid
   D. The detailed shape of its teeth

13. Why does a fossil with feather impressions require more evidence before scientists can conclude that its animal flew?

A. Feathers are present only on aquatic animals.
B. Feathers always form only after an animal dies.
C. No fossil can retain an impression of a feather.
D. Feathers occur in some flightless dinosaurs and can serve other functions.

14. A site preserves a row of three-toed track impressions but no bones. What is the most defensible initial claim?

A. The tracks give evidence about foot shape and movement, while exact species identification needs more evidence.
B. The tracks prove which named species made them.
C. The tracks prove the animal lacked feathers.
D. The tracks prove how long the animal lived.

15. Which discovery would give the most direct support for identifying a cluster of fossil eggs as belonging to one dinosaur group?

A. The same color of rock at a second site
B. A recent footprint several kilometers away
C. Identifiable embryos inside several eggs in the cluster
D. An isolated adult tooth from a much older layer