

# National Fossil Day

# EARTH'S HISTORY

## READING COMPREHENSION



**NO-PREP &  
EDITABLE**

**FOSSILS AS CLUES**  
Fossils are like time capsules that give us clues about Earth's past. They show what plants and animals looked like, how they lived, and what the environment was like. From fossils, scientists can piece together the story of Earth's history.

**EARTH'S HISTORY**

**WHAT IS EARTH'S HISTORY?**  
Earth's history is the story of our planet from the time it was formed to the present day. This story is billions of years long! Scientists study rocks, fossils, and other clues to learn about how Earth has changed over time.

**NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY**  
National Fossil Day is a special day to celebrate fossils and learn about Earth's history. It happens every year in October. On this day, people visit museums, participate in fun activities, and learn how fossils help us understand the past.

**FORMATION OF EARTH**  
Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago. At first, it was a hot, molten ball. Over time, it cooled down, and the surface hardened into rock. This was just the beginning of Earth's long and exciting history!

**FIRST LIFE FORMS**  
The first tiny life forms appeared in Earth's oceans about 3.5 billion years ago. These were simple organisms like bacteria. Over millions of years, life became more complex, and different types of plants and animals began to appear.

**AGE OF DINOSAURS**  
One of the most exciting times in Earth's history is the age of dinosaurs. Millions of years ago, Earth was home to the biggest animals to ever live. Dinosaurs, like the T-Rex, roamed the land. Scientists have discovered many fossils about these incredible creatures.

**ICE AGES**  
Earth has gone through several ice ages, when large parts of the land were covered in ice. The most recent ice age ended about 10,000 years ago. During ice ages, many animals adapted to the cold, while others went extinct.

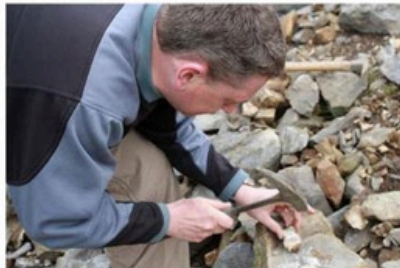
**READING COMPREHENSION  
MCQ'S  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWER KEY**

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

## EARTH'S HISTORY

### WHAT IS EARTH'S HISTORY?

Earth's history is the story of our planet from the time it was formed to the present day. This story is billions of years long! Scientists study rocks, fossils, and other clues to learn about how Earth has changed over time.



### NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY

National Fossil Day is a special day to celebrate fossils and learn about Earth's history. It happens every year in October. On this day, people visit museums, participate in fun activities, and learn how fossils help us understand the past.

### FORMATION OF EARTH

Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago. At first, it was a hot, molten ball. Over time, it cooled down, and the surface hardened into rock. This was just the beginning of Earth's long and exciting history!

### FIRST LIFE FORMS

The first tiny life forms appeared in Earth's oceans about 3.5 billion years ago. These were simple organisms like bacteria. Over millions of years, life became more complex, and different types of plants and animals began to appear.



### AGE OF DINOSAURS

One of the most exciting times in Earth's history is the age of dinosaurs. Dinosaurs roamed the Earth millions of years ago. They were the biggest animals to ever live on land. Fossils of dinosaurs, like the famous T. rex, help us learn about these incredible creatures.

### ICE AGES

Earth has gone through several ice ages, when large parts of the planet were covered in ice. The most recent ice age ended about 10,000 years ago. During ice ages, many animals adapted to the cold, while others moved to warmer areas.

Ready to Print &  
Editable



### FOSSILS AS CLUES

Fossils are like time capsules that give us clues about Earth's past. They show us what plants and animals looked like, how they lived, and what the environment was like. By studying fossils, scientists can piece together the story of Earth's history.

### DIGGING UP HISTORY

Paleontologists are scientists who dig up fossils. They use special tools to carefully uncover fossils buried in the ground. These discoveries help us learn more about the different periods of Earth's history and the creatures that lived during those times.



### LEARNING FROM ROCKS

Rocks also tell us about Earth's history. Different layers of rock form over millions of years. By studying these layers, scientists can understand what happened at different times in the past. For example, a layer of ash might show that a volcano erupted millions of years ago.

### PROTECTING OUR PAST

It's important to protect fossils and rocks so scientists can study them and everyone can learn from them. If you find a fossil, it's best to leave it where it is and tell an adult or a scientist. This way, they can make sure it is properly cared for and studied.

### CONCLUSION

Earth's history is full of amazing events and incredible creatures. National Fossil Day is a wonderful time to explore and learn about this history. By studying fossils and rocks, we can understand how our planet has changed and what life was like long ago.

## READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W  
VERSIONS INCLUDED

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

# EARTH'S HISTORY

DIRECTIONS CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

## 1. What is Earth's history?

- a) The story of the solar system
- b) The story of our planet from its formation to the present day
- c) The history of human civilization
- d) The history of other planets

## 2. When is National Fossil Day celebrated?

- a) Every year in December
- b) Every year in October
- c) Every year in June
- d) Every year in January

## 3. How old is Earth?

- a) About 1 billion years
- b) About 2.5 billion years
- c) About 4.5 billion years
- d) About 10 million years

## 4. When did the first life forms appear on Earth?

- a) About 3.5 billion years ago
- b) About 1.5 billion years ago
- c) About 500 million years ago
- d) About 10 million years ago

## 5. What were the first life forms on Earth?

- a) Dinosaurs
- b) Mammals
- c) Simple organisms like bacteria
- d) Plants

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is National Fossil Day?
2. How did Earth form?
3. When did the first life forms appear?
4. What do fossils help us learn about?
5. Why is it important to protect fossils?

## 6. What is the age of dinosaurs known as?

- a) The smallest animals
- b) The biggest animals to ever live on Earth
- c) The appearance of humans
- d) The first plants

## 7. When did the most recent ice age end?

- a) About 1,000 years ago
- b) About 5,000 years ago
- c) About 10,000 years ago
- d) About 100,000 years ago

## 8. What do fossils show us?

- a) What the weather will be like tomorrow
- b) What plants and animals looked like and how they lived
- c) How to grow plants
- d) How to build houses

## 9. Who studies fossils?

- a) Astronomers
- b) Geologists
- c) Paleontologists
- d) Chemists

## 10. What should you do if you find a fossil?

- a) Take it home
- b) Leave it where it is and tell an adult or a scientist
- c) Throw it away
- d) Paint it a different color

# ANSWER KEY

## MCQS

1. b) The story of our planet from its formation to the present day
2. b) Every year in October
3. c) About 4.5 billion years
4. a) About 3.5 billion years ago
5. c) Simple organisms like bacteria
6. b) The biggest animals to ever live on land
7. c) About 10,000 years ago
8. b) What plants and animals looked like and how they lived
9. c) Paleontologists
10. b) Leave it where it is and tell an adult or a scientist

## SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION

1. National Fossil Day is a special day to celebrate fossils and learn about Earth's history. It happens every year in October.
2. Earth formed about 4.5 billion years ago. At first, it was a hot, molten ball that cooled down over time.
3. The first tiny life forms appeared in Earth's oceans about 3.5 billion years ago.
4. Fossils help us learn about what plants and animals looked like, how they lived, and what the environment was like in the past.
5. It's important to protect fossils so that scientists can study them and everyone can learn from them.

ANSWER KEY  
INCLUDED

10 - MCQ'S & 5  
QUESTIONS