252 million – 66 million years ago

Dinosaurs Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What event made it possible for dinosaurs to become the dominant land animals on Earth?

- (A) The Chicxulub asteroid impact, which wiped out most early mammals
- (B) The Cambrian explosion, which wiped out most sea-living competitors
- (C) The last Ice Age, which wiped out the giant mammals that ruled the land
- (D) The End-Triassic mass extinction, which wiped out most competing reptiles

2. What physical advantage did the earliest dinosaurs have over other reptiles?

- (A) A huge body size that made them heavier than any other land animal
- (B) A thick armored shell that protected them from larger predators
- (C) An upright stance that made them faster and more energy-efficient
- (D) A sprawling stance that kept them low and hidden from predators

3. How large did the biggest Jurassic sauropod dinosaurs grow?

- (A) About 15 feet long and around 5 tons
- (B) About 40 feet long and around 10 tons
- (C) About 80 feet long and over 50 tons
- (D) About 250 feet long and over 400 tons

4. What does Archaeopteryx prove about the relationship between birds and dinosaurs?

- (A) That birds are living dinosaurs that evolved from small feathered theropods
- (B) That birds evolved from early mammals and are not related to dinosaurs
- (C) That birds appeared only after the dinosaurs had all gone extinct
- (D) That birds evolved from pterosaurs, the flying reptiles of the Jurassic

5. What caused the mass extinction 66 million years ago that killed the non-avian dinosaurs?

(A) A burst of deadly radiation from a nearby star that exploded
(B) An ice age that slowly froze the whole planet over millions of years
(C) A disease that spread among dinosaur herds on every continent
(D) An asteroid about 6 miles wide that struck the Yucatán Peninsula

6. Who coined the term 'Dinosauria' in 1842?

(A) British scientist Richard Owen
(B) British naturalist Charles Darwin
(C) British fossil collector Mary Anning
(D) American fossil hunter Othniel Marsh

7. What were the 'Bone Wars'?

(A) A series of court fights over who owned fossils found on public land
(B) A bitter fossil-hunting rivalry between American scientists Marsh and Cope
(C) A 1980s debate over whether an asteroid or volcanoes killed off the dinosaurs
(D) A contest between British and French museums to buy the first T. rex

8. What evidence did the Alvarez team find in 1980 that proved an asteroid caused the dinosaur extinction?

(A) A worldwide layer of volcanic ash, common on Earth but rare in asteroids
(B) A worldwide layer of iridium, rare on Earth but common in asteroids
(C) A huge crater on the Moon that formed at the same time as the extinction
(D) A complete T. rex skeleton buried under a thick layer of asteroid dust

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Dinosaurs Quiz: Answer Key

1. **D** The End-Triassic mass extinction, which wiped out most competing reptiles

2. **C** An upright stance that made them faster and more energy-efficient

3. **C** About 80 feet long and over 50 tons

4. **A** That birds are living dinosaurs that evolved from small feathered theropods

5. **D** An asteroid about 6 miles wide that struck the Yucatán Peninsula

6. **A** British scientist Richard Owen

7. **B** A bitter fossil-hunting rivalry between American scientists Marsh and Cope

8. **B** A worldwide layer of iridium, rare on Earth but common in asteroids