1831 – 2003

Evolution & Natural Selection Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What did Darwin observe on the Galápagos Islands that helped inspire his theory?

- (A) Finches whose beak shapes differed from island to island to fit local food
- (B) Moths whose wing colors darkened near factories to match the sooty trees
- (C) Pea plants whose flower colors passed to offspring in regular patterns
- (D) Dinosaur fossils showing that giant reptiles had once lived on all the islands

2. What is natural selection?

- (A) Living things best suited to their environment survive and reproduce more
- (B) Living things pass on skills and traits they gained during their own lives
- (C) Breeders choose which animals mate in order to produce the traits they want
- (D) Every species was made separately and has stayed the same ever since

3. Why did Darwin wait 15 years to publish his theory after developing it?

- (A) He was waiting for Mendel's pea plant results so he could add them to his book
- (B) He was gathering more evidence and knew the theory would cause controversy
- (C) He was banned from publishing by a British law against teaching evolution
- (D) He was sailing on a second Beagle voyage to collect more finches

4. What did Gregor Mendel discover about inheritance?

- (A) That traits pass down only from the father, while the mother's are lost
- (B) That traits pass down in predictable ratios through units we now call genes
- (C) That traits gained during a parent's life pass straight to its offspring
- (D) That traits pass down at random, with no pattern at all from parent to offspring

5. What was the Scopes Trial?

- (A) The trial of a British publisher charged with printing Darwin's book
- (B) The trial of a New York teacher charged with refusing to teach evolution
- (C) The trial of a Tennessee scientist charged with faking fossil finds
- (D) The trial of a Tennessee teacher charged with teaching evolution

6. What did Watson and Crick discover in 1953?

- (A) The full sequence of human DNA, which contains three billion base pairs
- (B) The pattern of punctuated equilibrium, which shows that evolution comes in bursts
- (C) The double helix shape of DNA, which explains how genes are stored and copied
- (D) The laws of inheritance, which explain how traits pass in fixed ratios

7. Why was Rosalind Franklin important to the discovery of DNA's structure?

- (A) Her fossil finds in Africa gave Watson and Crick proof of human evolution
- (B) Her full sequence of human DNA gave Watson and Crick a map of every gene
- (C) Her X-ray images of DNA gave Watson and Crick key evidence for the double helix
- (D) Her pea plant experiments gave Watson and Crick the laws of inheritance

8. What did sequencing the human genome help scientists confirm about evolution?

- (A) That humans share only about 10% of their DNA with chimpanzees
- (B) That humans have more than ten times as many genes as any other animal
- (C) That humans arose separately, with no ancestor shared with other apes
- (D) That humans share roughly 98-99% of their DNA with chimpanzees

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Evolution & Natural Selection Quiz: Answer Key

1. **A** Finches whose beak shapes differed from island to island to fit local food

2. **A** Living things best suited to their environment survive and reproduce more

3. **B** He was gathering more evidence and knew the theory would cause controversy

4. **B** That traits pass down in predictable ratios through units we now call genes

5. **D** The trial of a Tennessee teacher charged with teaching evolution

6. **C** The double helix shape of DNA, which explains how genes are stored and copied

7. **C** Her X-ray images of DNA gave Watson and Crick key evidence for the double helix

8. **D** That humans share roughly 98-99% of their DNA with chimpanzees