

Evolution Test: Practice

1

Which of the following ideas is supported by Darwin's observation of local variation among tortoises in the Galápagos Islands?

- a. artificial selection
- b. adaptation
- c. acquired characteristics
- d. tendency towards perfection

2

James Hutton's and Charles Lyell's work suggests that

- a. Earth is several million years old.
- b. Earth is several thousand years old.
- c. all fossils were formed in the last 1000 years.
- d. all rocks on Earth contain fossils.

3

According to Darwin's theory of natural selection, the individuals that tend to survive are those that have

- a. characteristics their parents acquired by use and disuse.
- b. characteristics that plant and animal breeders value.
- c. the greatest number of offspring.
- d. variations best suited to environmental conditions.

4

Charles Darwin viewed the fossil record as

- a. evidence that Earth was thousands of years old.
- b. useful support for his theory.
- c. interesting but unrelated to the evolution of modern species.
- d. evidence that traits are acquired through use or disuse.

5

Modern sea star larvae resemble some primitive vertebrate larvae. This similarity may suggest that primitive vertebrates

- a. share a common ancestor with sea stars.
- b. evolved from sea stars.
- c. evolved before sea stars.
- d. belong to the same species as sea stars

6

Molecular evidence in support of natural selection includes

- a. the nearly universal genetic code.
- b. the presence of vestigial structures.
- c. a tendency toward perfect, unchanging DNA in various species.
- d. the transmission of acquired characteristics by DNA.

7

In the 1800s, Charles Lyell emphasized that

- a. the human population will outgrow the available food supply.
- b. all populations evolve through natural selection.
- c. Earth is a few thousand years old.
- d. past geological events must be explained in terms of processes observable today.

8

The idea that events like war, starvation, and disease could prevent the endless growth of human populations was presented by

- a. Charles Darwin.
- b. Jean-Baptiste Lamarck.
- c. Thomas Malthus.
- d. Charles Lyell.

9

Which extinction is occurring now and is caused by human activities such as pollution, land clearing, and overfishing?

- a. Devonian
- b. Holocene
- c. Ordovician
- d. Triassic

10

A pattern in which species experience long, stable periods interrupted by brief periods of rapid evolutionary change is called

- a. convergent evolution.
- b. coevolution.
- c. adaptive radiation.
- d. punctuated equilibrium.

11

The domain that contains unicellular organisms that live in extreme environments is

- a. Eubacteria.
- b. Eukarya.
- c. Archaea.
- d. Bacteria.

12

Of the following anatomical structures, which is homologous to the wing of a bird?

- a. Flipper of a dolphin
- b. Hindlimb of a kangaroo
- c. Wing of a butterfly
- d. Tail fin of a flying fish

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