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Crash Course Biology #16: Evolutionary History: The Timeline of Life

Name: _____ Date: _____

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1. When Earth first formed, it was a hot mess composed of _____, _____, and _____.
2. The early Earth's atmosphere was filled with _____ and _____, making it impossible to see.
3. The process of _____ helps scientists understand the big patterns of how living things evolve above the species level.
4. Scientists use _____, _____, and _____ to study the history of life on Earth.
5. One theory suggests that life may have originated in deep-sea _____, where chemical and temperature conditions were ideal.
6. _____ is believed to have played a key role in the early copying and transferring of genetic material before DNA took over.
7. The Earth's first residents were single-celled organisms called _____.
8. The process of _____ allowed early organisms to harness solar energy, producing oxygen as a byproduct.
9. The first multicellular life appeared around _____ PM on the 24-hour clock representation of Earth's history.
10. Fossils of ancient organisms such as _____ provide evidence of the transition from sea to land.
11. _____ is the study of Earth's shifting surface, which has influenced evolution by creating mountains, splitting continents, and altering habitats.
12. The accumulation of oxygen in Earth's atmosphere led to a massive shift in life forms, pushing some to extinction while others evolved new ways to use _____.
13. The Earth's history has seen five major _____, during which over three-quarters of all species disappeared.
14. Organisms develop _____, or heritable traits that improve their chances of survival and reproduction.
15. Evolution has no goal or plan; it simply follows the natural _____ of life's changes over time.

Crash Course Biology #16: Evolutionary History: The Timeline of Life – KEY

1. When Earth first formed, it was a hot mess composed of **dust, rock, and ice**.
2. The early Earth's atmosphere was filled with **water vapor and ash**, making it impossible to see.
3. The process of **macroevolution** helps scientists understand the big patterns of how living things evolve above the species level.
4. Scientists use **geology, climate, and fossils** to study the history of life on Earth.
5. One theory suggests that life may have originated in **deep-sea vents**, where chemical and temperature conditions were ideal.
6. **RNA** is believed to have played a key role in the early copying and transferring of genetic material before DNA took over.
7. The Earth's first residents were single-celled organisms called **prokaryotes**.
8. The process of **photosynthesis** allowed early organisms to harness solar energy, producing oxygen as a byproduct.
9. The first multicellular life appeared around **5 PM** on the 24-hour clock representation of Earth's history.
10. Fossils of ancient organisms such as **fish-like animals with legs and lungs** provide evidence of the transition from sea to land.
11. **Plate tectonics** is the study of Earth's shifting surface, which has influenced evolution by creating mountains, splitting continents, and altering habitats.
12. The accumulation of oxygen in Earth's atmosphere led to a massive shift in life forms, pushing some to extinction while others evolved new ways to use **oxygen**.
13. The Earth's history has seen five major **mass extinctions**, during which over three-quarters of all species disappeared.
14. Organisms develop **adaptations**, or heritable traits that improve their chances of survival and reproduction.
15. Evolution has no goal or plan; it simply follows the natural **rhythms** of life's changes over time.

15 Questions

Answer Key Included

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