

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Chapter 17

The History of Life**Section 17-1 The Fossil Record** (pages 417-422)

This section explains how fossils form and how they can be interpreted. It also describes the geologic time scale that is used to represent evolutionary time.

Fossils and Ancient Life (page 417)

- Scientists who study fossils are called paleontologists.
- What is the fossil record? It is information about past life that is based on fossils.
- What evidence does the fossil record provide? It provides evidence about the history of life on Earth and how different groups of organisms have changed over time.
- Species that died out are said to be extinct.
- Is the following sentence true or false? About half of all species that have ever lived on Earth have become extinct. false

How Fossils Form (page 418)

- Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about fossils.
 - Most organisms that die are preserved as fossils.
 - Fossils can include footprints, eggs, or other traces of organisms.
 - Most fossils form in metamorphic rock.
 - The quality of fossil preservation varies.
- How do fossils form in sedimentary rock? Sediments settle to the bottom of lakes and seas and bury dead organisms. The weight of upper layers of sediment compresses lower layers into rock and turns the dead organisms into fossils.

Interpreting Fossil Evidence (pages 418-420)

- List the two techniques paleontologists use to determine the age of fossils.
 - Relative dating
 - Radioactive dating
- Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about relative dating.
 - It determines the age of a fossil by comparing its placement with that of fossils in other layers of rock.
 - It uses index fossils.
 - It allows paleontologists to estimate a fossil's age in years.
 - It provides no information about absolute age.

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