

7th Grade Life Science

Earth's History and Evolution - Study Guide:

Test: 5-21-08

Understand the meanings of Key Science Words/Terms:

Geologic timescale, igneous rock, sedimentary rock, metamorphic rock, rock cycle, Uniformitarianism, evolution, overproduction, variation, adaptation and speciation, vestigial structures, fossils, natural selection, relative and absolute dating, mass extinction, radioactive dating and half-life, species, extinction.

Textbook pages:

1. Know the three main types of rocks. Understand their characteristics and be able to explain the rock cycle. Know how rock layers help geologists date the past. Compare and contrast relative and absolute age and understand how the half-life of radioactive elements can be used to determine absolute ages. Pp 151-159
2. Be aware of Hutton's theory of Uniformitarianism. Be able to describe the Geologic Timescale and briefly explain what it shows. Be aware of the divisions of geologic time. Pp 160-167
3. Be able to describe how most fossils form. Know how different kinds of fossils show traces of Earth's past Pp 170-176
4. Be aware of how fossils show evidence of life's history. Know an example of a mass extinction event from the past and how these events affect populations of species. Pp 184-190
5. What does the term 'Evolution' mean? Understand and be able to explain Darwin's theory of Natural Selection. Know the key ideas of overproduction, variation, adaptation and speciation. Pp 191-199
6. Understand the factors that can cause an increase or decrease in population size. Know the possible reasons for the extinction of a species. Pp 202-208
7. Be able to describe the importance of fossils as evidence of evolution. Give examples of evidence that Darwin used and other modern examples of evidence for evolution. Pp 210-216

Some helpful strategies for studying:

- Write summaries of all the key points on the study guide.
- Use Flash cards for vocabulary practice.
- Create drawings and tables to help compare and contrast.
- Practice questions in the review section.
- Work with a friend and discuss the information.
- Check with your teacher on anything you are not clear about.
- Review all your target notes in your journal.
- Try to attend the morning review class.
- Practice drawing and labeling key diagrams.