

Name _____ Date _____ Hour _____

Study Guide on Geologic Time

1. Present time is part of the _____ era.
2. List the divisions of time from longest to shortest:
_____, _____, _____, _____
3. What is the name used to describe the three earliest eons of geologic time? _____
What are the names of those eons? _____, _____, _____
4. According to the principal of _____, the youngest rock layers are closest to the surface.
5. The average temperature on Earth has _____ through the course of Earth's history.
a. not changed b. changed
6. The Cambrian explosion refers to a rapid increase in _____
7. The remains of once living plants or animals are called _____.
8. The first mammals, birds, and flowering plants arose during the _____ era.
9. The oldest rock layer in an undisturbed rock sequence occurs _____
10. Evolution is the process by which organisms _____
11. On the geologic time scale, the smallest unit of time is called a(n)
a. era b. eon c. period d. epoch
12. Index fossils are useful to geologists if the fossils _____
a. have lived over a short period of time b. are not easily recognized
c. are not widely distributed geographically d. are scarce
- ____ 13. Molds, casts, coprolites, and petrified wood are all examples of _____
- ____ 14. The Phanerozoic Eon includes the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and _____ eras.
- ____ 15. The Archean and Proterozoic are examples of _____
a. epochs b. periods c. eons d. eras
- ____ 16. Which of the following lists the units of geologic time in order from shortest to longest?
a. era, eon, period, epoch b. epoch, eon, period, era
c. eon, era, period, epoch d. epoch, period, era, eon
- ____ 17. Cyanobacteria use the process of _____ to produce energy, and oxygen is given off as a waste product.
a. oxidation b. differentiation c. photosynthesis d. glaciation
20. What determines when an eon, era, period or epoch ends and a new one begins? Be specific. _____

