Name _____
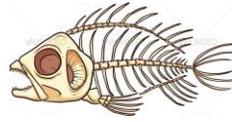
The Fossil Record   Link is on my Science Page

1. The word fossil comes from the Latin word _____ which means

   _____. Today, the word fossil refers only to the remains or traces

   of ancient life and is usually reserved for remains at least _____ years old.

   What is the fossil record? _____

2.   _____ are scientists who use fossils to study life in the past.

3. Fossils can be _____ of ancient organisms such as bones, shells, teeth, or plant leaves.

4. Fossils can also be _____ left by organisms such as burrows, coprolites (feces),

   tracks and trails, nests or footprints.

5. Most fossils are formed when organisms or their _____ are buried by sediment.

6. An organism is most likely to be preserved if it is buried _____

7. What does abiotic mean? _____

8. When an organism dies it is exposed to many different types of biotic and abiotic factors. Biotic factors

   include _____, _____, and _____.

9. The _____ a dead organism gets buried, the MORE chance there is for the

   fossilization   process to begin.

10. Define:

    Mold _____

    _____

    Cast _____

    _____

Mineralization _____

_____

Impression _____

_____

Foram _____

_____

11. In rare instances, an entire organism becomes fossilized because it gets trapped in a substance that

protects it from destruction. These are _____, _____ &

_____.

12. Organisms with hard parts made mostly of_____ material are more likely to be

fossilized than organisms with hard parts that are mostly _____.

13. Where an organism _____ helps determine whether or not it becomes a fossil.

14. Paleontologists estimate that fewer than _____of all the organisms alive today will be preserved as fossils.

15. After a fossil is formed, it can be destroyed in four ways. List them.

_____   _____

_____   _____

16. _____ rock is most likely to contain fossils.

17. Because of processes like _____and _____, some fossils

that were once buried deep in the ground can become exposed near the surface.

18. This is why many paleontologists look for fossils on _____and other areas where

uplift and erosion have occurred