

## History Set in Stone

Many species of animals and plants have disappeared from the earth. They have died out, or become **(0)** .... . But sometimes animals or plant **(1)** .... can be found buried in rocks. These are called fossils. Imprints in rocks **(2)** (... prints, for example) are also called fossils.

Not every creature **(3)** .... as a fossil. Many simply rot away completely and leave no **(4)** .... of their existence. Because many creatures and plants have disappeared without leaving any fossils, we will never know anything about them.

The study of fossils, or palaeontology, to give it its scientific **(5)** ....., became established at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Before this research began, people did not believe that fossils had once been **(6)** .... . Large fossil teeth were seen as evidence of a race of giants in the past, while ammonites, a very

**(7)** .... type of fossil which you might easily find yourself on a beach or among rocks, were called snakestones because of their snake-like **(8)** .... . People believed that snakes had been **(9)** .... to stone by a miracle.

The most famous fossils of all are the dinosaurs. There are, of course, no dinosaurs on **(10)** .... in zoos. They were not **(11)** .... to extinction by humans as some animals have been, but became extinct millions of years before our own species developed. The reason why the dinosaurs became extinct is still a mystery. Many theories have **(12)** .... the disappearance of dinosaurs with major **(13)** .... change. One possibility is that a gigantic meteorite crashed into the earth **(14)** .... so much dust into the atmosphere that the **(15)** .... of sunlight was reduced. The temperature would have fallen and, as a consequence, many types of plants and animals would have become extinct.

0. **A** extinct **B** extinguished **C** remote **D** obsolete
1. **A** bones **B** evidence **C** parts **D** remains
2. **A** toe **B** paw **C** palm **D** hand
3. **A** lasts **B** survives **C** continues **D** develops
4. **A** marks **B** proof **C** remnants **D** trace
5. **A** name **B** term **C** description **D** status
6. **A** alive **B** physical **C** living **D** flesh
7. **A** common **B** usual **C** normal **D** frequent
8. **A** type **B** manner **C** shape **D** figure
9. **A** petrified **B** made **C** ossified **D** turned
10. **A** exhibition **B** appearance **C** sight **D** display
11. **A** hunted **B** brought **C** chased **D** driven
12. **A** connected **B** joined **C** explained **D** initiated
13. **A** climatic **B** temporal **C** weather **D** seasonal
14. **A** disturbing **B** displacing **C** putting **D** pushing
15. **A** heat **B** amount **C** degree **D** period

**Odpowiedzi:**

**1 D:** 'bones' and 'parts' do not collocate with 'plant', although they do go with 'animal'. 'Evidence' does not collocate with either.

**2 B:** 'paw' refers to animals and can make a print.

**3 B:** The idea is that there is still something to see.

**4 D:** The meaning is negative - 'trace' is the weakest word.

**5 A:** 'name' collocates with 'give' and 'palaeontology' is the name of a science.

**6 A:** The implied contrast is with 'dead'.

**7 A:** The idea is that we can easily find this type.

**8 C:** We need a word that describes their appearance.

**9 D:** The idea is 'turned to stone'. This is a fixed collocation.

**10 D:** This is the set phrase for what you see in museums, zoos, etc.

**11 A:** This word collocates with 'to extinction'. **12 A:** 'Connect ideas' is the implied collocation.

**13 A:** Only 'climatic' has a long-term, permanent meaning.

**14 B:** The idea is moving something from one place to another.

**15 B:** Only B collocates with 'of sunlight'.