

Uniformitarianism Practice Worksheet

Name

1. Who is sometimes called the "father of geology"?
 - a. Harrison Schmitt
 - b. George Gibbs
 - c. Charles Darwin
 - d. James Hutton

2. The concept of uniformitarianism suggests that catastrophic processes were not responsible for the landforms that existed on the Earth's surface.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

3. The principle of uniformitarianism states that processes operate
 - a. In an unknowable manner
 - b. Randomly; past processes may or may not be similar to present processes
 - c. Differently in at present than they did in the past
 - d. The same way at present as they did in the past

4. If cross-bedded sandstone forms in dunes today, it probably formed in dunes in the ancient past.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

5. An example of uniformitarianism is observing lava cooling to create a certain type of rock, and then concluding that the older rock of the same type found elsewhere must also have been formed by a lava flow.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

6. Hutton came up with the principle of _____, which is crucial to our ability to understand Earth's past.
 - a. sediment layering
 - b. aging Earth
 - c. geological processes
 - d. uniformitarianism

7. Who is credited with formulating the doctrine of uniformitarianism?

- a. Baron Georges Cuvier
- b. Bishop James Ussher
- c. James Hutton
- d. None of the above

8. According to the principle of uniformitarianism, the present is not the key to the past.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

9. In cross-bedding the layering is due to changes in wind direction.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

10. Without the principle of uniformitarianism geologists could not understand Earth history.

- a. TRUE
- b. FALSE

