

Read the text and choose the correct word for each space. For each question circle A, B, C or D.

HISTORY SET IN STONE



Many species of animals and plants have disappeared from the earth. They have died out, or become extinct. 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 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 become 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 consequence, many types of plants and animals would have become extinct.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 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 |

Source: CAE Practice Tests Plus 1