

• PASSAGE ONE

Whales are mammals rather than fish, yet they live in the world's oceans rather than on land. Because of the fact that they are mammals, scientists have believed for quite some time that whales are descendant of land mammals. Some interesting evidence to support this theory has recently been found. In Egypt, fossils have been found of a forty-million-year-old whale leg, kneecap, ankle, footbones, and toes. It appears from the fossil evidence that the bones were not very strong and not very large in comparison to the size of the whale. Based on this fossil evidence, the following evolutionary path has been hypothesized. As the whale began its evaluation toward the water, its legs weakened and decreased in size. Then, during its millions of years in the water, the legs slowly disappeared, leaving only the front flippers today.

1. The main idea of this passage is that

- A.** numerous whale fossils have been found in the world's oceans
- B.** there is evidence that whales may have descended from land mammals
- C.** whales are mammals and not fish
- D.** whales have not evolved very much over the last millions of years

2. All of the following are true about whales, EXCEPT that

- A.** they are mammals
- B.** they live in the ocean
- C.** they are fish
- D.** they may have come from the land

3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about the whale fossils in the passage?

- A.** They were found in Egypt.
- B.** They support the theory that whales came from land.
- C.** They are forty million years old.
- D.** They showed that ancient whales had flippers.

4. Which of the following was NOT mentioned in the list of whale fossils found in Egypt?

- A.** A whale's kneecap
- B.** A whale's ankle
- C.** A whale's footbones
- D.** A whale's fingers

5. According to the hypothesis in the passage, what happened to whales' legs?

- A.** They got stronger over time.
- B.** They got larger over time.
- C.** They disappeared quickly.
- D.** They became front flippers.