

9.6.2 The Fossil Hunters

Word List

1.



arduous ['ɑːrdʒʊəs] adj.

When something is **arduous**, it demands great effort or labor.

→ The explorers began their **arduous** hike up the steep mountain.

2.



attain [ə'teɪn] v.

To **attain** something means to gain or achieve it, often after a lot of effort.

→ In two more years, I will **attain** my high school diploma.

3.



coexist ['kəʊɪɡ'zɪst] v.

To **coexist** with something means to exist with it in the same time and place.

→ Our pets **coexist** at our home with little or no problems.

4.



conceive [kən'si:v] v.

To **conceive** something means to be able to imagine or believe it.

→ *The child could not **conceive** the actual size of the Earth.*

5.



dubious ['dju:biəs] adj.

When something or someone is **dubious**, they are not considered honest.

→ *The police thought that the man's description of the crime was **dubious**.*

6.



ego ['i:gou] n.

An **ego** is a person's sense of their own worth.

→ *Kelly's **ego** made her think that she was some kind of a superhero.*

7.



elastic [iˈlæstɪk] n.

Elastic is a rubber that stretches when it is pulled.

→ He attached the **elastic** bungee to his legs before he jumped off the platform.

8.



endeavor [enˈdeɪvər] n.

An **endeavor** is an attempt to do something, especially something new or original.

→ The company's new advertising **endeavor** ended in a horrible failure.

9.



engrave [inˈɡreɪv] v.

To **engrave** means to cut a design or words into the surface of something.

→ The couple **engraved** their names onto the old pine tree.

10.



excavate [ˈɛkskəveɪt] v.

To **excavate** means to dig on land and remove dirt to look for something.

→ *The team wishes to **excavate** the site in hopes of finding fossils.*

11.



jagged [ˈdʒæɡɪd] adj.

When something is **jagged**, it has a tough, uneven shape or edge.

→ *The swimmer was hurt when he fell on the **jagged** rocks.*

12.



locale [louˈkæl] n.

A **locale** is a small area or place where something specific happens.

→ *The spa was the perfect **locale** for my mother to relax and enjoy her vacation.*

13.



mold [mould] n.

A **mold** is a hollow container that is used to make certain shapes.

→ Using a cupcake **mold** will ensure that they come out just right.

14.



outright [aut'rait] adj.

When something is **outright**, it is open and direct.

→ Everyone knew that the boy's story was an **outright** lie.

15.



periphery [pə'rifəri] n.

The **periphery** of an area, place, or thing is the edge of it.

→ A beautiful floral pattern is on the **periphery** of the stationery.

16.



plaster ['plæstə] n.

Plaster is a smooth paste that gets hard when it dries.

→ He used **plaster** to fill in the cracks in the old walls.

17.



shovel ['ʃʌvəl] n.

A **shovel** is a tool with a long handle that is used for digging.

→ The boy grabbed his **shovel** and got all of the snow off of the sidewalk.

18.



skeletal ['skelətl] adj.

When something is **skeletal**, it relates to bones in the body.

→ We studied the **skeletal** system in anatomy class.

19.



terrestrial [tə'restriəl] adj.

If something is **terrestrial**, it relates to Earth.

→ There are billions of **terrestrial** life forms.

20.



vicious ['viʃəs] adj.

When something or someone is **vicious**, they are violent and cruel.

→ The **vicious** dog tried to bite the small child.