

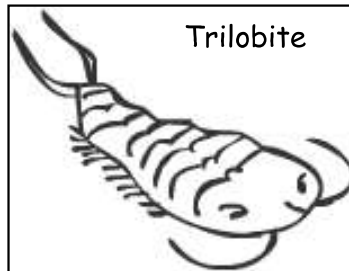
Paleozoic Era: Introduction

Name _____

Instructions: Read through the Paleozoic Era introduction. Then complete the "True False" statements below.

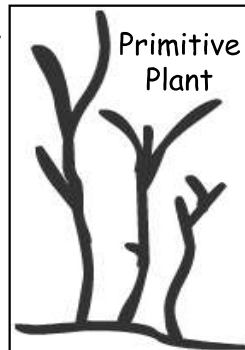
The Paleozoic Era represents the geologic time from 251 to 540 million years ago. The Paleozoic was a time of widespread geological, climatic, and biological change. The beginning of the Paleozoic is sometimes referred to as the "Age of Invertebrates" as several new and important animal species began to appear in the oceanic fossil record.

One such creature, the Trilobite, became the world's dominant species for the first part of the Paleozoic. Many scientists believe the Trilobite's hard exoskeleton helped them become so successful.



As the Paleozoic Era continued, more and more species began to appear. Fish, arthropods, amphibians and reptiles all developed during the Paleozoic.

Many of the species during the Paleozoic Era developed in the oceans, however eventually transitioned onto land. By the late Paleozoic, the land was dominated by various forms of organisms. Great forests of primitive plants covered the continents and towards the end of the era, large reptiles were dominant and some the first modern plants appeared.



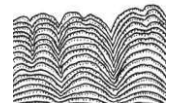
Although a successful era, the Paleozoic ended 251 million years ago in a mass extinction event that is still debated by scientists today.

Select True or False for each statement below.

- 1- The Paleozoic is the oldest geologic time segment. True - False
- 2- Trilobites were the first land animals. True - False
- 3- "Age of Invertebrates" refers to early Paleozoic. True - False
- 4- Fish and horses appeared during the Paleozoic. True - False
- 5- Reptiles developed by the end of the Paleozoic. True - False
- 6- Most Paleozoic animals lived in the sea. True - False
- 7- The Paleozoic lasted over 400 million years. True - False
- 8- Modern plants appeared during the Paleozoic. True - False

4.6 Billion
Years ago

Precambrian
Eon



540 Million
Years ago

Paleozoic Era



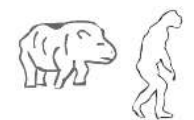
251 Million
Years ago

Mesozoic Era



65 Million
Years ago

Cenozoic Era



Present Day