Rocks, Fossils, and Time

Grade 4 Science Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Scientists find a fossil of a whale far inland. Which claim is best supported?
   the land was once covered by ocean
   the land has always been far from the ocean
   the whale was carried there by a river
   whales once walked on dry land like today's deer

2. A mountain has sea fossils near its top. Which two-step explanation fits?
   rain carried shells uphill, then they turned to rock
   the land was pushed up, then sea creatures moved in
   sea creatures were buried in seafloor rock, then the land was pushed up
   the mountain sank, then sea creatures climbed up

3. Two students explain shell fossils on a mountain. A: "The mountain was once under the sea and rose." B: "Birds dropped the shells." Why is A's idea better?
   the shells are inside the rock layers, not on top
   birds cannot carry anything at all
   mountains have always been under water
   shells are too light to fossilize

4. A desert cliff has a layer with shell fossils under a layer of sand dune rock. What does this pattern show?
   the area was a desert first and a sea later
   the desert and sea existed at the same time
   the shells were carried into the desert by wind
   the area was a sea first and became a desert later

5. A layer of coal is found between two layers of sandstone. Coal forms from swamp plants. Which claim is best supported?
   the sandstone formed from swamp plants
   the area was always a swamp
   the coal formed before the bottom sandstone
   a swamp once existed between two sandy times

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Science Worksheet - Challenge Me

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