Rocks, Fossils, and Time

Grade 4 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Why do fossils form mostly in layers of mud and sand?
   fossils grow inside sand like plants
   mud and sand keep animals alive
   mud and sand cover remains quickly and harden
   mud and sand melt the bones away

2. A layer of volcanic ash lies between two layers of rock. Leaf fossils are in the layer just under the ash. Which happened first?
   the ash fell, then the plants lived on it
   the plants lived, then the ash fell
   the ash grew into the plants
   the plants and the ash came at the same time

3. A claim says, "This valley has always been dry land." Which evidence weakens the claim?
   lizards live under the valley's rocks
   fish fossils are found in the valley's rock
   the valley gets little rain each year
   cactus plants grow in the valley today

4. Why are fossils of soft animals like jellyfish rare?
   soft animals sink too deep in the sea to ever find
   soft bodies break down before they can be buried and preserved
   jellyfish did not live on Earth long ago
   jellyfish fossils slowly turn into seashells

5. A beach today has ripple marks in its sand. An old rock layer far inland has the same marks. What can scientists infer?
   the inland rock is younger than the beach
   ripple marks form only in deserts
   the beach is the same age as the rock
   the inland area was once a sandy shore

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Science Worksheet

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