Rocks, Fossils, and Time

Grade 4 Science Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. Scientists find the same kind of fern fossil in rocks in Africa and South America. What could this suggest?
   the two places were once joined or had the same climate
   the fossils were moved there by people
   ferns grew only after the oceans formed
   ferns swam across the ocean

2. A claim says, "Rock layers cannot show what a place was like long ago." Which observation weakens this claim?
   rock layers in one cliff can be many different colors
   a layer with coral fossils shows a warm sea was once there
   some rock layers are much harder than others
   rock layers can be very thick or very thin

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

4. Bottom to top: limestone with shells, sandstone with ripple marks, shale with leaves, dune sandstone. Which describes the change over time?
   desert → land with plants → shallow water → sea
   sea → desert → shallow water → land with plants
   land with plants → sea → desert → shallow water
   sea → shallow water → land with plants → desert

5. 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 grew into the plants
   the ash fell, then the plants lived on it
   the plants and the ash came at the same time
   the plants lived, then the ash fell

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Science Worksheet - Challenge Me

Circle the answer.

1. Scientists find the same kind of fern fossil in rocks in Africa and South America. What could this suggest?

   - **the two places were once joined or had the same climate**
   - the fossils were moved there by people
   - ferns grew only after the oceans formed
   - ferns swam across the ocean

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