

TOEFL Prep 11: Read the article and do the exercises BEFORE you come to class on Thursday.

Ancient Life

Organic products from ancient life are an integral part of the Earth's resources, offering scientist a more accurate picture of ancient life-forms. One key to ancient life comes in the form of petrified matter. Petrification is a process that slowly turns the remains of a living object into stone. In this process, minerals see into a mass of organic matter. After the organic matter has been replaced, a mineral version of the living object is left. Petrification often occurs in trees that are found adjacent to rivers, floodable areas, and volcanoes, which provide the mud or ash that intially covers the organic matter. Some pieces of petrified wood retain the original cellular structure of the wood and the grain can be easily seen. Today, it is feasible to petrify wood in a simple laboratory process.

Fossils are another way that ancient life is preserved. Most fossils include an animal's hard parts, such as teeth and bones. One type of fossil, called a trace fossil, may also include eggs, toothmarks, contents of the guts and fossil excrement. Some products from ancient life offer us more than scientific knowledge. One such product is coal, a solid fuel of plant origin. It develops over millions of years, during which swamp vegetation is submerged in water, depleted of oxygen, and covered by layers and layers of sand and mud. These overlapping layers settle with the Earth's movements are are compressed over time.

Choose the correct form of each word to fit the sentences below.

noun-accuracy adjective-accurate adverb-accurately

1. She _____ surmised that we were losing more water in the reservoir than we were taking in.
2. We checked the _____ of her facts and found many mistakes.
3. It is important to be _____ when quoting statistics.

noun-compression adjective-compressed

1. To make the foundation stronger, they _____ the soil before pouring the concrete.
2. His suspected spinal cord _____ probably results from his back injury.

noun-feasibility adverb-feasibly adjective-feasible

1. The police interrogated the suspect and determined his story wasn't _____.
2. They did a _____ study to decide whether to proceed with the merger or back out of the deal.
3. We could _____ eliminate poverty from the world if we were willing to have an autocratic political system.

verb-gut noun-guts

1. The fire _____ the house leaving only the foundation and parts of the roof.
2. It takes _____ to start your own business right out of college.
3. The editor _____ the manuscript and insisted that I rewrite the entire chapter.
4. The _____ of the computer are usable. It was just the shell that was damaged.

adjective- integral verb-integrate noun-integrity

1. In my design, the kitchen is an _____ part of the house, visible from the living room and office.
2. It took a long time to _____ the new procedures into the work routine.
3. The sculptor felt that to bow to the pressure of the committee and make the sculpture less abstract would threaten his artistic _____.

noun-structure adjective-structural adverb-structurally

1. The chemical _____ of some molecules.
2. The inspector found the building _____ sound.
3. Because of the _____ complexity of the design, it is not easy to make changes to any one part of the plan.

Choose a word from the reading sample which means the same as the definitions below:

1. bowels or entrails
2. have elements in common
3. empty or hollow out
4. practically, in a way that can work
5. keep or hold
6. pass slowly for a long time
7. something constructed
8. precision, exactness
9. next to
10. pressed together

Answer these questions about the article.

1. Which sentence best expresses the essential information of this passage?
 - a. Preserved life-forms, including petrified matter and fossils, teach us about ancient life.
 - b. The primary function for preserved life-forms is scientific discovery.
 - c. Scientists try to replicate natural processes that preserve ancient life-forms.
 - d. Ancient organic matter provides the most concentrated forms of energy known to humans.

2. In the passage, the words “submerged in” are closest in meaning to
 - a. made wet
 - b. completely covered
 - c. adjacent to
 - d. depleted of