

Standardized Test Prep

Test-Taking Tip

Anticipating the Answer

You can sometimes figure out an answer before you look at the answer choices. After you think of your own answer, compare it with the answer choices. Select the answer that most closely matches your own answer. This strategy can be especially useful for questions that test vocabulary. Try to answer the question below before you look at the answer choices.

Sample Question

A well-tested concept that explains a wide range of observations is known as a(n)

- A hypothesis.
- B controlled experiment.
- C scientific theory.
- D inference.

Answer

Choice C is correct, because the definition of *scientific theory* is "a well-tested concept that explains a wide range of observations." Even though the other answer choices are all scientific processes, none is the correct answer.

Choose the letter of the best answer.

1. The process by which individuals that are better adapted to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce than other members of the same species is called
 - A natural selection.
 - B evolution.
 - C competition.
 - D overproduction.
2. Which of the following is the best example of an adaptation that helps an organism survive in its environment?
 - F green coloring in a lizard living on gray rocks
 - G a thick coat of fur on an animal that lives in the desert
 - H extensive root system in a desert plant
 - J thin, delicate leaves on a plant in a cold climate

3. Which of the following is the weakest evidence supporting a close evolutionary relationship between two animals?

- A The bones of a bird's wings are similar to the bones of a dog's legs.
- B Human embryos look like turtle embryos in their early development.
- C Lesser pandas look like bears.
- D The amino acid sequence in mouse hemoglobin is similar to the amino acid sequence in chimpanzee hemoglobin.

Use the diagram below and your knowledge of science to answer Questions 4–5.



4. About how long ago did mosses first appear?
 - F 100 million years ago
 - G 150 million years ago
 - H 350 million years ago
 - J 450 million years ago
5. Which group of plants would have DNA that is most similar to the DNA of flowering plants?
 - A mosses
 - B ferns
 - C conifers
 - D They would all be equally alike.

Constructed Response

6. Relative dating and radioactive dating are two methods for determining the age of a fossil. Compare and contrast these two methods.