FOSSILS PRACTICE TEST – SSSS 2015

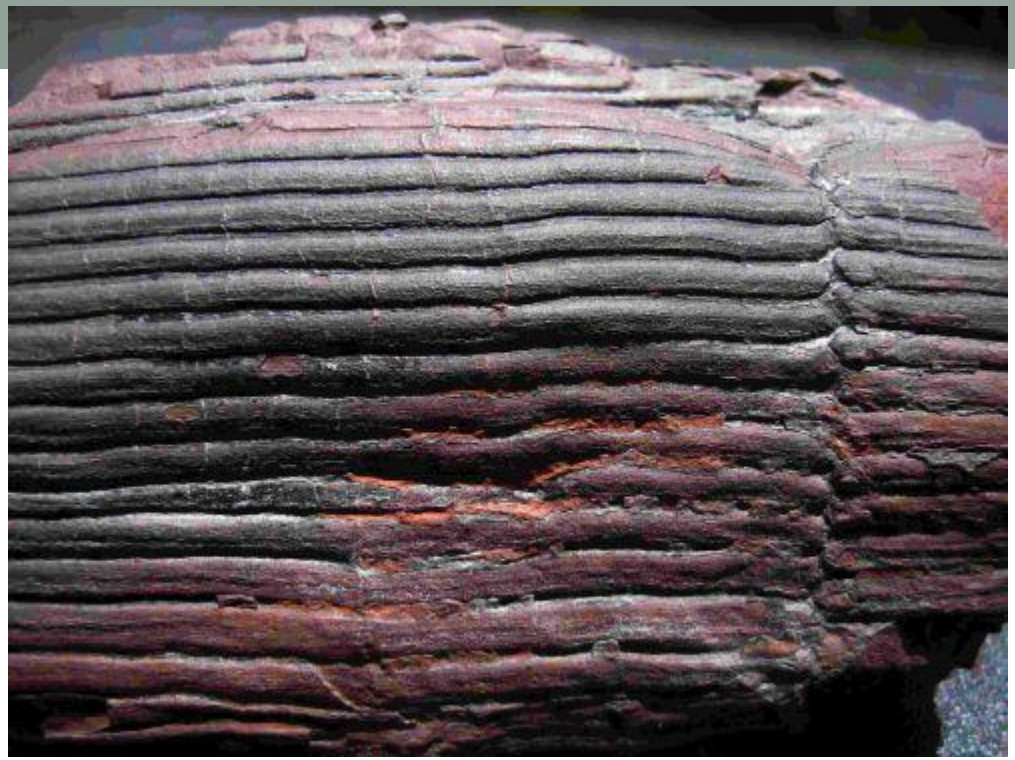
By: doublelift

Suggested timing: 1:45 for each page; 6 mins at end to check work

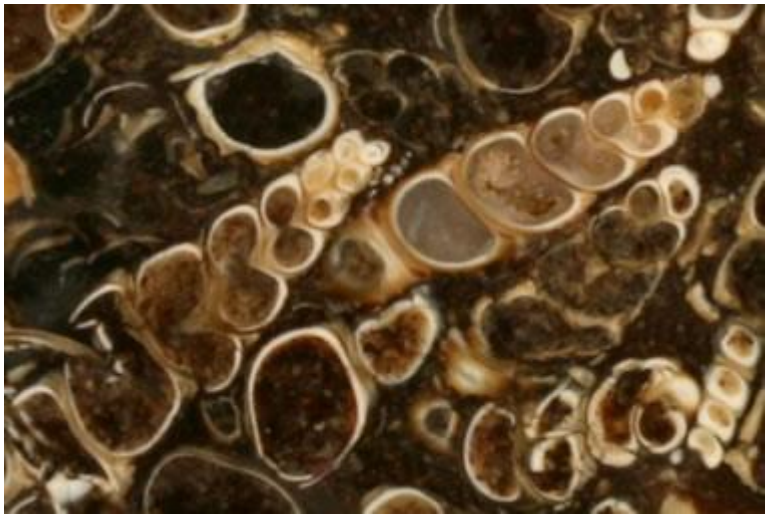
1. Identify the class and genus of the fossil shown.
2. What is one way to differentiate between this and other similar genera?
3. What compound would have been found in relatively high concentrations in this organism?

1. Identify the genus of the fossil on the right.
2. In what type of environment would this organism have lived? (be specific)
3. From what time period and where is it found?

1. Identify the class and genus of this specimen.
2. Name the two things that its head shield is almost completely covered by.
3. Name one characteristic of this organisms eyes.
4. In what orientation are these fossils often found?

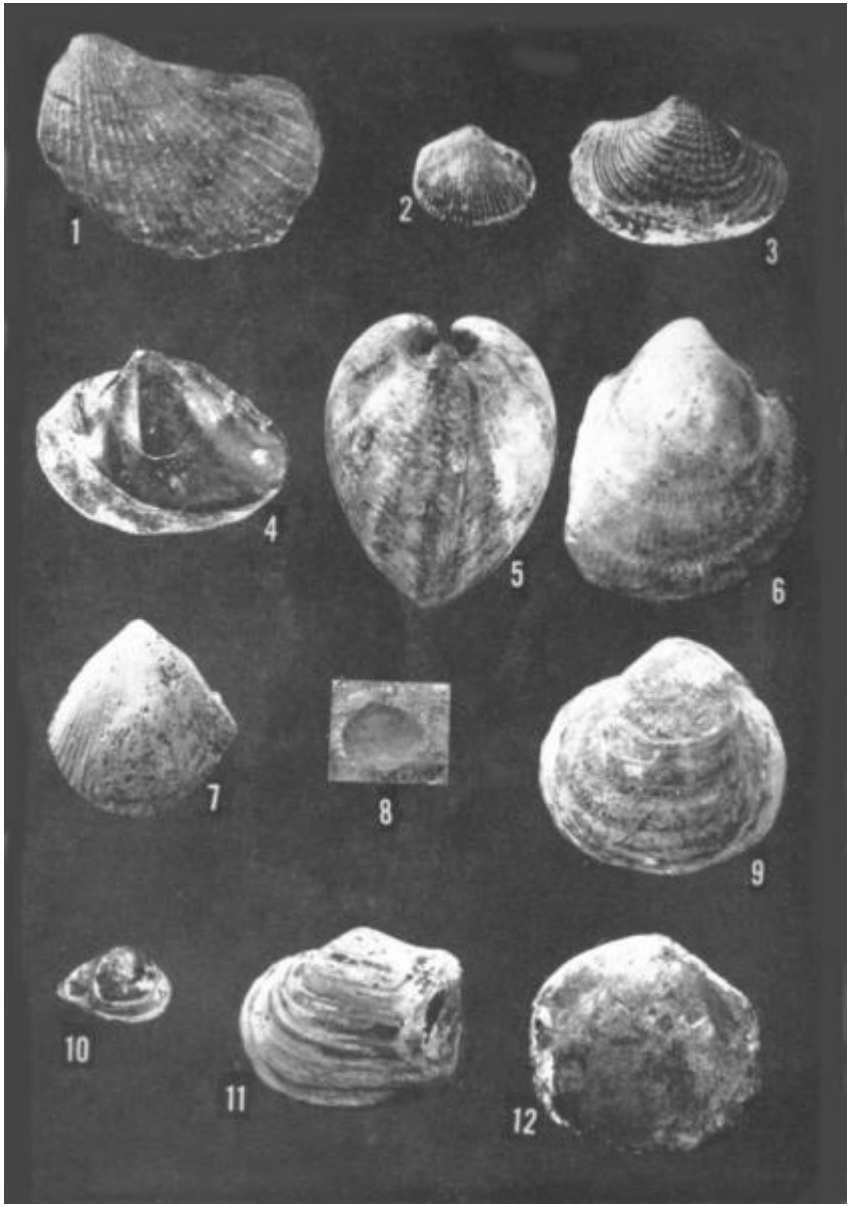


1. Identify the phylum and genus of this specimen.
2. What are its immature leaves known as?
3. What is the diploid stage of its life cycle known as?
4. What is required for its spores to germinate?



1. Identify the class and genus of this specimen.
2. When, if at all, did it go extinct?
3. What type of rock is the fossil set it?
4. In what environment would this organism have lived?

1. Identify the phylum and class of all the specimens shown.
2. What is the genus of the specimen labeled “1”?
3. What could have affected near-shore forms of specimen 1?
4. Where are living specimens of this genus found today?



1. Identify the genus of this specimen.
2. What must have occurred for this specimen to have been fossilized?
3. This specimen most likely had how many toes?

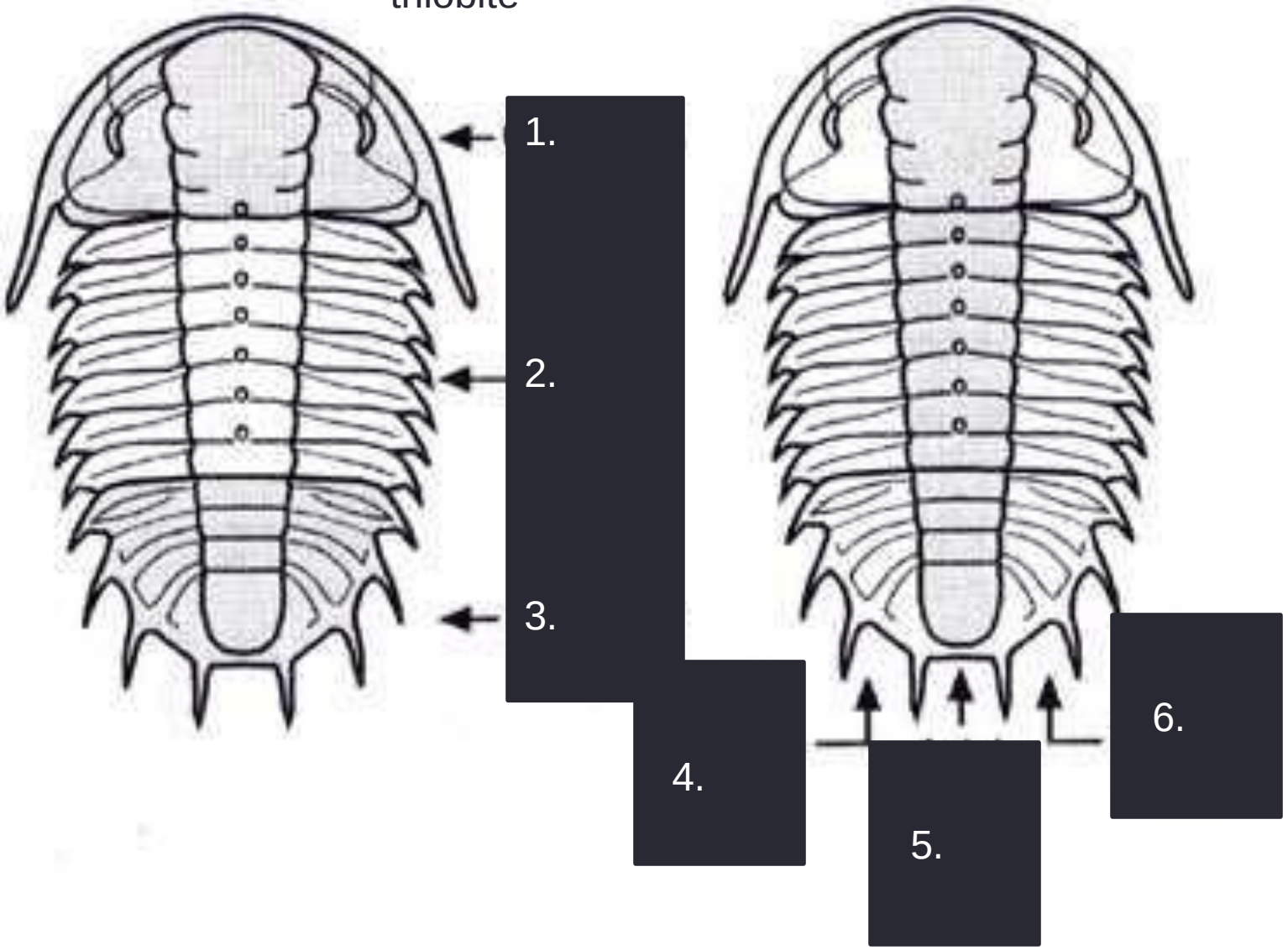
1. Identify the family of this specimen.
2. What two purposes might the spines on its back have served?
3. During what time period did this organism live?

1. What structures are depicted in the image?
2. Why are they important to the field of paleontology?
3. How did they form?
4. Name two morphologies of this structure.

1. Identify the order of this specimen.
2. What would its diet consist of?
3. Name two modern species of this order.

1. Define “endocast”.
2. Describe the process of bioimmuration.
3. How are the above two related?

Label the parts of the trilobite



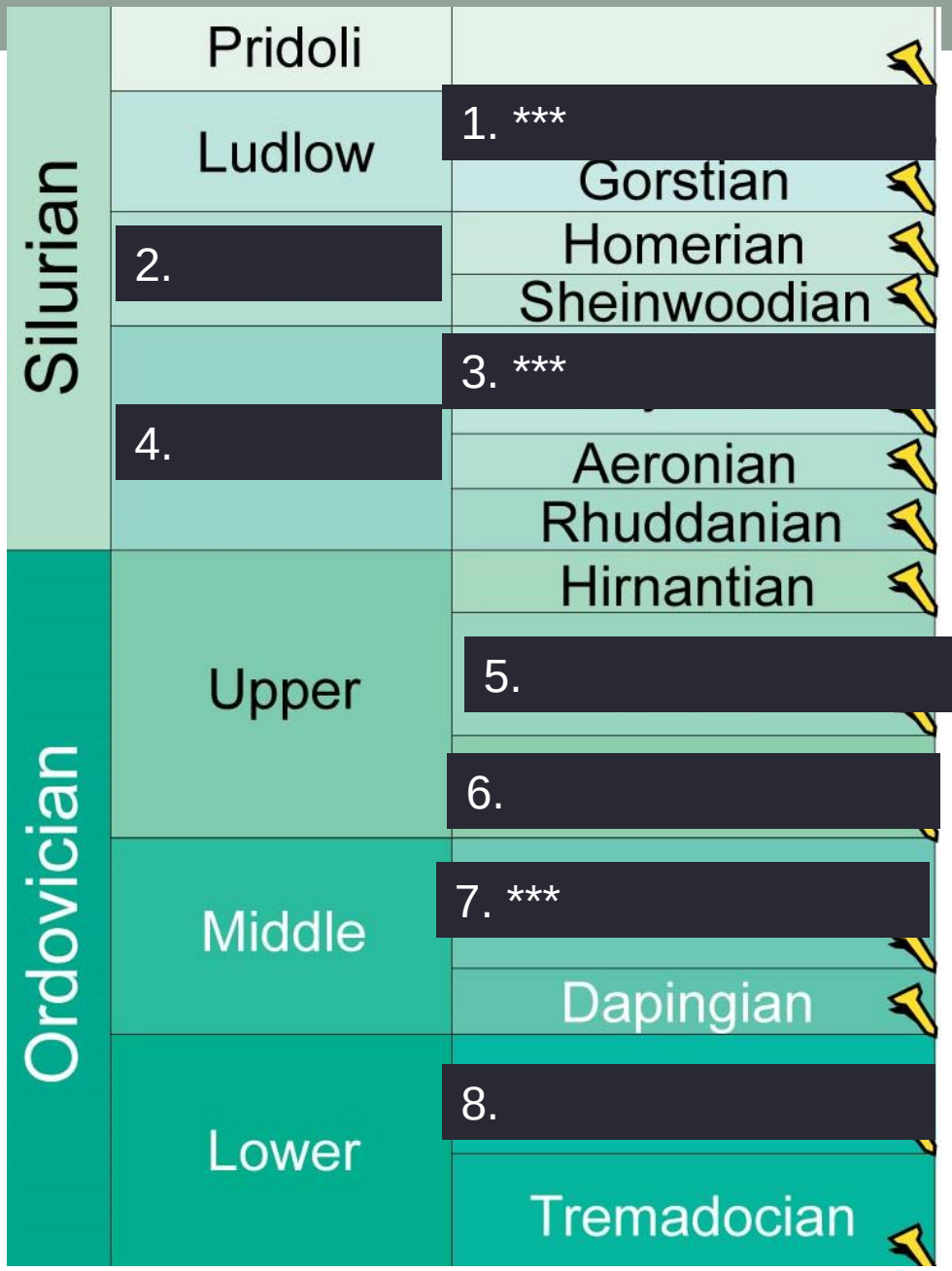
1. Identify the phylum and genus of this specimen.
2. What chemical has been proposed for dating specimens of this phylum?
3. After which glaciation event did these chemicals first appear?
4. What is the closest single-celled relative to this phylum?

1. Identify the genus of this specimen.
2. What were its feeding habits like?
3. Why do many paleontologists believe that they were anadromous?
4. T/F: this specimen had lungs in addition to gills

1. What might have been the wingspan of this specimen, and why?
2. What period would most of these fossils be from?
3. What was the largest land arthropod of all time?
4. Where have many of these specimens been found?

Fill in the missing names in the geologic time scale.

Give the approximate days in mya of the numbers with asterisks next to them.



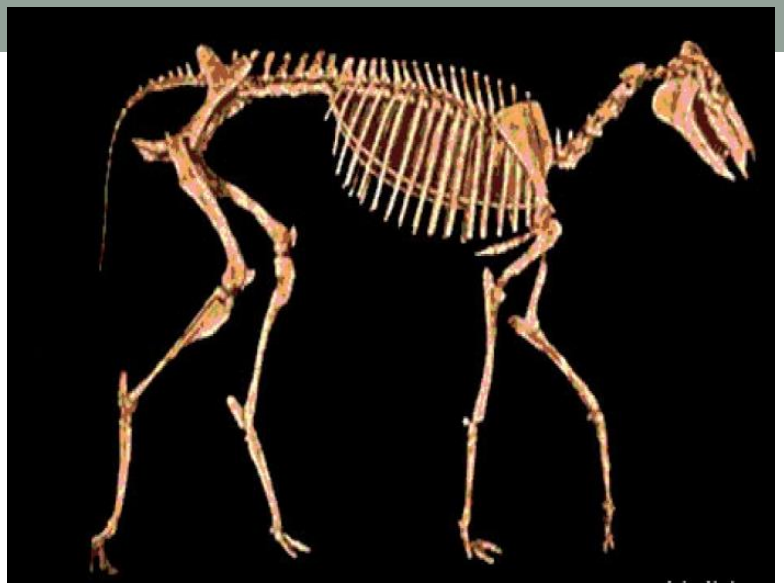
1. Identify the class and genus of the specimen.
2. Approximately how many millions of years ago did they live?
3. How did they feed?
4. Why is it important to paleontology?

1. Name the 3 major suture patterns that ammonites exhibit, a short description of their morphologies, as well as the time period they are associated with.

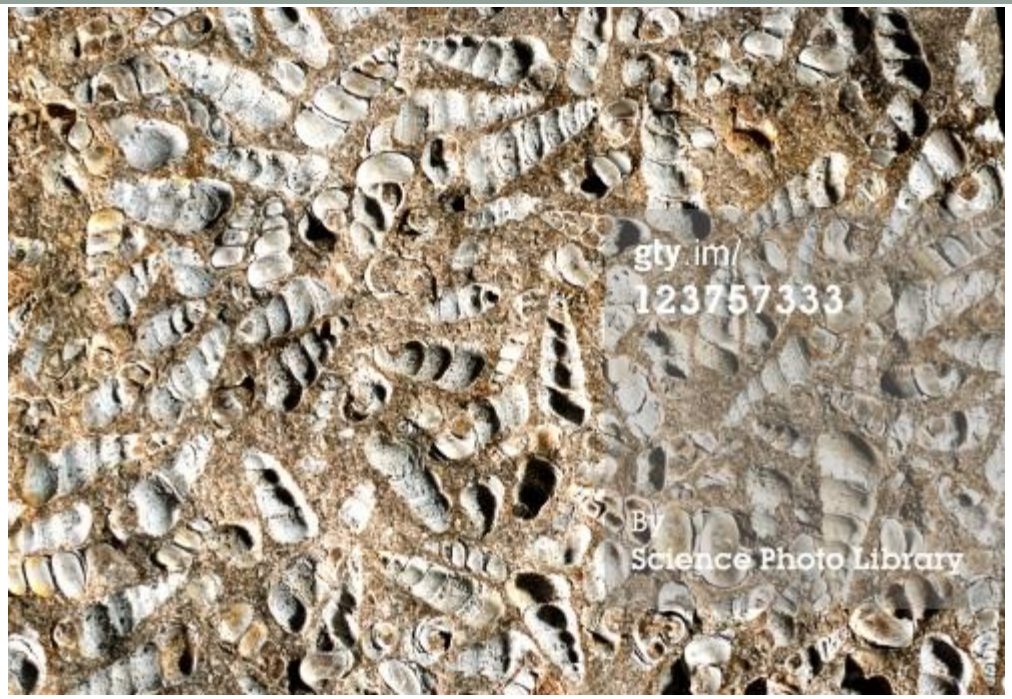
2. Define siphuncle, as well as the subclass it distinguishes ammonites from.

1. What superclass does this specimen represent?
2. What is the common name of this superclass?
3. Name the species of the earliest known bony fish, as well as when it lived.
4. What are the two classes that this superclass is divided into?

Yay slide 20/26!



1. Identify the genus of the specimen.
2. What is considered a living relative of this genus?
3. How many toes do members of its order posses?
4. What was it considered the earliest known member of?
5. What is it now classified as?



1. Identify the genus of the specimens shown.
2. What type of rock is this? (be specific)
3. In what environments does this rocks usually occur?

1. Identify the genus of this specimen.
2. Name two proposed functions of its cranial crest.
3. T/F: A complete specimen of this genus has been discovered.
4. Name two genera that could have preyed on it.

1. Name the genus this skull belongs to.
2. What is a defining characteristic of this genus?
3. What is another name for its tail?
4. Where are most fossils of this genus found?

1. Order the following from earliest time of appearance to most recent time of appearance:
   I. Homo sapiens
   II. Ginkgo huttonii
   III. Dunkleosteus terrelli
   IV. Elrathia kingii
   V. Basilosaurus