A Walk Through Time

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Abstract

The King of All Cosmos wrote this really great review article on Earth, in honor of his own sixtieth birthday. Tragically, also in honor of his sixtieth birthday, he got really wasted and smashed the paper into small rectangular pieces. Being imbued with Science, the pieces naturally settled onto the walls of the Unified Science Building. Now, Prince, you must make your way through the darkened halls and undo the King's mistake by rolling up facts from the Walk Through Time posters and their surroundings. If your bonus is heavy with correct answers and things that amuse us, we will be pleased and give you points. If not, we will tell you how much you disappoint us and we will shoot lasers out of our eyes at you.

1 Intro

Where does the walk through time begin?

(First floor of Morley Science center, by the balcony above the entrance)

In the walk through time, how much does .001 inch measure?

(The length of a human lifetime)

Which poster has a note taped to it indicating that some information is incorrect?

("the rains reign," put there by members of the astrophysics department)

2 Mineral

About 3300 MYA, three objects were compared to the porridge that Goldilocks stole. Which one is too hot? Too cold? Just right? (Venus, Mars, Earth)

According to the Astronomy department, two of the objects are depicted incorrectly in what way?

(Venus and Mars are sideways)

Around 110 MYA, a poster described what phenomenon that was later observed in a narrow canal? (Solitons)

You are around 20 MYA. From what are your eyes in danger? (Lasers!)

How does the sign let you know if there is danger? ("If the sign is lit up, do not enter.")

Did you falsify the converse of the statement?

(Probably, since you didn't enter but the sign was probably not lit up.)

Do you think that BIFs really belong in this section?

(Your choice. They're biologically-created iron formations so it could go either way.)

How old are the oldest rocks on earth (4300M years ago)

3 Vegetable

There's a marsh terrarium near 2200 MYA, name the member of Poales found within.

(Juncus effusus)

Is it a grass, a sedge, or a rush? How can you tell?

(A rush. "Sedges have edges and rushes are round / and grasses are hollow all down to the ground.")

What is one thing that can be dwarfed by a fossil stromatolite? (A "tall Canadian.")

Around 2400 MYA, what prevented oxygen from building up in the atmosphere?

(it reacted with hydrogen, sulfur, and iron to form oxides)

4 Animal

How many different species of protocists are estimated to exist today? (250,000)

What undead fruit was popular in 2800 MYA? ("Vampire-berry" or Vampirococcus or some such)

When observing rotifers, what prevents one from climbing onto a nearby ledge?

(A sign says "PLEASE STAY OFF IT IS UNSAFE.")

When was the megafauna mega-extinction, and what was its cause? (65M years ago, a comet hit the Yucatan peninsula)

Around 2400 MYA and across from MSL 128 is an unmarked room. What goes on in there?

(Cell culture)

A funny-looking creature arose 145 MYA from a now-extinct lineage. What do we call these creatures descendent and what phylogenetic problem do they pose?

(Birds/Aves, they make the Dinosaurs paraphyletic.)

What process, critical in animal development, has been given the silly name "cell-icide?"

(Apoptosis)

Features of nature may give us insight into their ultimate Creator. What does taxonomy tell us about the King of All Cosmos, according to Haldane? (That he has an "inordinate fondness for beetles.")

What is Emily's full name? (Emiliania Huxleyi)

What animals hibernate so deeply that experts cannot tell whether they are alive or dead (snakes)

5 Conclusion

What is element H in the periodic table of desserts? (Hamentashen)

What does Thoreau have to say about conservation? ("In wildness is the preservation of the world.")

D'où venons-nous? Que sommes-nous? Où allons-nous? (Reward creativity and French)