

LA BREA TAR PITS

Name_____

Please answer the following questions about the La Brea Tar Pits (George C. Page) Museum. The answers for these questions will be found inside the museum.

Just after entering the museum, there is a movie theater. Go catch the movie (it is short), and write any five important facts from this movie. Name of movie_____

F1:

F2:

F3:

F4:

F5:

1. How old is this deposit of tar?

Era_____ Period_____ Epoch_____

2. Describe how “tar” traps animal and planet life.

3. Who was *Glossotherium harlani*? How big did it get?

4. What kind of human bones have been found at La Brea? How old are these bones?
How old was the human when he or she died?

5. What was *Smilodon californicus*? What were its eating habits?

6. At La Brea, they found at least 159 skeletons of what large plant eater?

7. What was *Mammuthus columbi*? How big was it?

8. Who is *Bison antiquus*? How many skeletons of this critter did they find?

How do they compare to the modern Bison?

9. Who was *Mammoth americanum*? To which modern day critter are they related?

10. Who was *Capromeryx minor*?

11. The “wall of jaws” is an awesome display of the jaws of what critter? What did they eat? Why do you think so many got stuck in the tar?

12. Who’s bigger, the American Lion or the California Saber Tooth Cat? Compare their sizes.

13. What was *Equus occidentalis*? What modern day animal is it related to?

14. How many different species of dinosaurs have been found in the tar pits? Why?

15. Who was George C. Page? Why is he important?

16. What does La Brea mean in Spanish?

17. Birds are unusually well represented in the fossil record here at La Brea Tar Pits. Why is this so?

18. Now its time to play name that birdie.

Hypomorphus fragilis: _____

Neogyps errans: _____

Ciconia maltha: _____

Coragyps occidentalis: _____

Morphnus woodwardi: _____

Breagyps clarki: _____

Polyborus prelutosus: _____

Parapavo californicus: _____

Gymnogyps anplus: _____

Neophrontops americanus: _____

Spizaetus grinnelli: _____

Teratornis merriami: _____

19. The wingspan of Teratornis merriami can grow to how many feet?_____

20. A Paleontologist is a special type of geologist. What does a Paleontologist do?

21. In this area, there is a second movie theater. Go catch the movie (it is short), and write any five important facts from this movie. Name of movie_____

F1:

F2:

F3:

F4:

F5:

22. Find the small greenish sign near the fishbowl area. Describe some of the newest areas of research they are focusing in the last few years at La Brea Tar Pits and Page Museum.

23. In the final room of the museum, there is large display of the chronology of the La Brea area, including the extinction dates of many of the critters found here. On this display, they show three colored lines, which represent life-spans and extinction dates. For each of the dates listed below, identify the organisms that became extinct at that time.

6000 years ago (the red line):

10000 years ago (the blue line):

12000 years ago (the yellow line):

22. What is a Tapir? When did they disappear?

Please answer the following questions about the La Brea Tar Pits. The answers for these questions will be found **outside** the museum.

Lake Pit Viewing Station A

1. How many tons of fossil bones have been found here at La Brea Tar Pits?
2. What is the composition of the surface oil slicks seen in the Lake Pit?
3. Which gas is bubbling out form fissures below the lake?

Excavation Pits 3, 4, 61, 67

1. The fossils found in Pits 3 and 4 are how old?
2. The fossils found in Pits 61 and 67 are how old?
3. When did the excavations take place?
4. What types of critters did they find in each of the Pits?

Pit 3:

Pit 4:

Pit 61:

Pit 67:

Excavation Pit VS 9

1. How deep is this excavation?
2. What types of critters did they dig out of this pit?
3. How old are the critters found in this pit?
4. When was this pit excavated?
5. How many bones did they find all together?

Excavation Pit VS 13

1. How deep is this excavation?
2. What types of critters did they dig out of this pit?
3. How old are the critters found in this pit?
4. When was this pit excavated?

Pleistocene Garden

- 1) When did the Pleistocene take place?
- 2) How was the climate compared to today?
- 3) What kind of plants are described here?
- 4) What type of critter fed on them?
- 5) What are Riparian Plants? Which types of plants specifically can be included in this group?

Excavation Pit VS 91

1. How deep is this excavation?
2. What types of critters did they dig out of this pit?
3. How old are the critters found in this pit?
4. When was this pit excavated?

Amphitheater Area

1. What are the brown critters that the little kids are playing on (and maybe you too...)?
2. What are in the large crate boxes behind Pit 91, known as Project 23?
3. What type of rock is the amphitheater made? Name some minerals that can be seen too.