LA BREA TAR PITS **Name_____**

F16

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.

1. How old is this deposit of tar? You may need to look this up in your textbook…

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. What types of plants are fossilized here in La Brea? Give the scientific name and common name for at least three:

Scientific Name	Common Name
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

13. What is the American Lion's new name? Who is bigger, this one or the California Saber Tooth Cat?

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

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

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

17. What does La Brea mean in Spanish?

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

19. Now its time to play name that birdie.

Hypmorphus fragilus: _____

Neogyps errans: _____

Ciconia maltha: _____

Coragyps occidentalis: _____

Morphnus woodwardi: _____

Breagyps clarki: _____

Polyborus prelutosus: _____

Parapavo californicus: _____

Gymnogyps anplus: _____

Neophrontops americanus: _____

Spizaetus grinnelli: _____

Teratornis merriami: _____

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

21. 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.

<u>Lake Pit Viewing Station A</u>

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?

Sculptures

4. Who is in the process of getting stuck in Lake Pit A?

5. Who is Howard Ball, and what does he have to do with this pit?

6. What critters went extinct during the time of the Tar Pits?

History

7. What is George Allan Hancock's connection to this area? What was his profession?

8. How far below the surface is the oil in this area?

9. How does oil get trapped? Make a little diagram and describe…

10. How did the big pit come into existence?

Excavation Pits 3, 4, 61, 67

1. How old are the fossils in these pits, and how many total have they pulled out?

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

What was his estimated flight speed?_____What did this critter eat?

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, 67:

5. How do fossils form side by side, but are 20ky different in age? Describe the five step process that causes this phenomenon.

Excavation Pit VS 13

1. How tall is Harlan's Ground Sloth? What is this critter's main method of defense?

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?

Excavation Pit VS 9

1. How deep is this excavation?

2. How many and 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?

6. Define the following terms.
Bone Jumble:

Excavate:

Fossil:

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. How many of each of the types of critters listed below did they dig out of this pit?

Horses _____ Saber Tooth Kitty _____Jaguars _____

Dire Wolf _____ American Bison _____American Mastodon_____

Coyote _____ Harlan's Ground Sloth_____ Short Faced Bear_____

3. How old are the critters found in this pit?

4. When was this pit excavated?

5. What do each of these fossils tell us about the climate?

Rainbow Trout:

Monterey Cypress Cones:

Fence Lizard:

Project 23, "Tiny Fossils Tell Big Stories"

1. Which critters are of the flying type?

2. What types of vegetation are found in this research area?

3. Name at least five ground critters found fossilized here.

4. There are also several fossils found that formed either under water or under the ground. Name at least five of those.

5. The existence of small fossils suggest a specific climate and vegetation type. Describe.

General Project 23 Questions: Who, What, Why, Where and How

1. Who are you?

2. What are you doing?

3. How long does it take?

4. Why does it take so long?

5. Where do the fossils go?

6. What is in the crates?

Amphitheater Area

1. What are the brown critters that the little kids are playing on (and maybe you too...)?

2. What type of rock is the amphitheater made? Name some minerals that can be seen too.