

ANCIENT WHALE BONES QUESTIONS: ANSWER KEY

Answer the following questions as you watch the Ancient Whale Bones video from National Geographic.

1) Where was the oldest whale ancestor discovered?

- A. Appalachian Mountains, USA
- B. Sulaiman Mountain Range, Pakistan
- C. Wetterstein Mountains, Germany
- D. Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia

2) What can we infer about the mountains?

- A. They used to be filled with trees, bushes, and a diversity of land mammals before humans arrived.
- B. They have always been above water collecting dust.
- C. They will not be able to show us evolutionary relationships among organisms.
- D. They contain evidence of once living organisms from prehistoric creatures that lived in water.

3) How long ago did the organism they discovered live?

- A. 46 million years
- B. 4.6 million years
- C. 46 thousand years
- D. 4.6 thousand years

4) Name at least two adaptations that the whale had. Why were these adaptations necessary?

Neck became shorter and more powerful for diving, rear legs widened to be more flipper-like, tail developed muscles for swimming

5) Now that whales are a dominating predator in the ocean, what would be an evolutionary adaptation that a whale's prey would want to have acquired over time?

Speed

6) What is one question you have after watching this video?

Answers will vary.