

Rhyme Through Time

A Discovery Guide to the Museum's *Evolution: Life Through Time* Exhibit

Oh no! It looks like your time machine landed in Cambrian Period, but you need to find your way back to the Quaternary! You'll need to take your time machine through the *Evolution: Life Through Time* Gallery to solve your way to the present. Below are a series of riddles that will help you navigate your way through time!

1. I emerged in the Cambrian period
And thrived another 300 million years —seemingly a myriad.
“Three lobes” is the meaning of my name,
And the Permian-Triassic Extinction was my bane.
I roamed the world in my exoskeleton day and night.
And the sea scorpions gave me quite a fright!
I am a _____.

2. Traversing the Permian on all four,
Many mistake me for a dinosaur.
But a single opening at the back of my skull to help
me chew,
Proves that I’m more closely related to you!
Having a large head and sharp teeth to eat,
Helps me fulfill my appetite for meat.
With a sail on my back to cool me down in the hot
sun,
My name is _____.

3. A Cretaceous predator,
It took me 20 years to mature.
On Madagascar I ran about,
Hunting like a cat because of my short snout.
I’m a theropod, but smaller than *Tyrannosaurus*,
I am _____.

4. My name means the “mother whale,”
But I have legs along with my tail.
A cenozoic link between land and sea,
Modern whales are related to me.
Philip Gingerich found me in the wild
Lying alongside my child.
This is how I got the name _____,
And you’ll find us next to *Pakicetus*.

5. *Homo sapiens* could be my descendant,
But my evolutionary branch may also be independent.
This is because, unlike you,
I use the outer edges of my feet when I walk two-by-two.
Though others here are just a skeleton,
I am a complete reconstruction.
My story is still somewhat an enigma
My name is _____.

Answers: 1. *Trilobite*; 2. *Maiacetus*; 3. *Dimetrodon*; 4. *Australopithecus sediba*; 5. *Majungasaurus*