**Life Science Name:**

**Directed Reading Worksheet Class:**

**Chapter 8**

**Section 1**

1. What are fossils?

2. The oldest layers of rock and fossils are usually on the , while the newest

layers of rock and fossils are usually on the .

3. Explain the difference between relative dating and absolute dating.

4. The is the calendar scientists use to outline the history of life on Earth.

5. are divisions of the geologic time scale.

6. What are eras characterized by?

7. describes a species that has died out completely.

8. are periods when many species suddenly die out completely.

**Section 2**

1. During Time, life on Earth began.

2. List 3 ways Earth differed from today during Precambrian Time.

3. How do scientists think life began?

4. The first organisms were , single-celled organisms that lacked a

nucleus.

5. appeared more than 3 billion years ago.

6. evolved 1 billion years after prokaryotes.

7. List 3 organisms that appeared during the Paleozoic Era.

8. Land was colonized during the Era.

9. The largest mass extinction occurred during the Era.

10. The Mesozoic Era is commonly called the .

11. dominated the Earth during the Mesozoic Era.

12. Birds first appeared during the Era.

13. were the most important plants during the Mesozoic Era.

14. What happened at the end of the Mesozoic Era?

15. The Era is continues today.

16. The Cenozoic Era is sometimes called .

**Section 3**

1. are a group of mammals that includes humans, apes, monkeys, and

lemurs.

2. What are 2 characteristics of primates?

3. The is the closest living relative of humans.

4. Humans are in the family.

5. is the main characteristic that separates hominids from other

primates.

6. What is bipedalism?

7. The oldest hominid fossils have been found in .

8. Many early hominids are classified as .

9. Name 2 ways that *Australopithecines* were different from apes.

10. List 2 hominids from the *Homo* group.

11. were recent hominids that lived in Europe and western Asia.

12. What happened to Neanderthals?

13. Modern humans are classified as .