

Chapter 13 Earth's History

Section 13.1 Precambrian Time: Vast and Puzzling

This section discusses Earth's history during the Precambrian time.

Reading Strategy

Building Vocabulary As you read this section, use the information about the vocabulary terms to complete these phrases. For more information on this Reading Strategy, see the **Reading and Study Skills** in the **Skills and Reference Handbook** at the end of your textbook.

1. Shields are composed of a. _____; are evidence of b. _____; and are significant to Precambrian time because c. _____.

2. Stromatolites are composed of d. _____; are evidence of e. _____; and are significant to Precambrian time because f. _____.

Precambrian History

1. 🕒 The Precambrian time starts at _____ and continues until the start of the _____ period over 4 billion years later.
2. 🕒 Circle the approximate percentage of the geologic time scale that Precambrian time comprises.
 - a. 44 percent
 - b. 50 percent
 - c. 73 percent
 - d. 88 percent

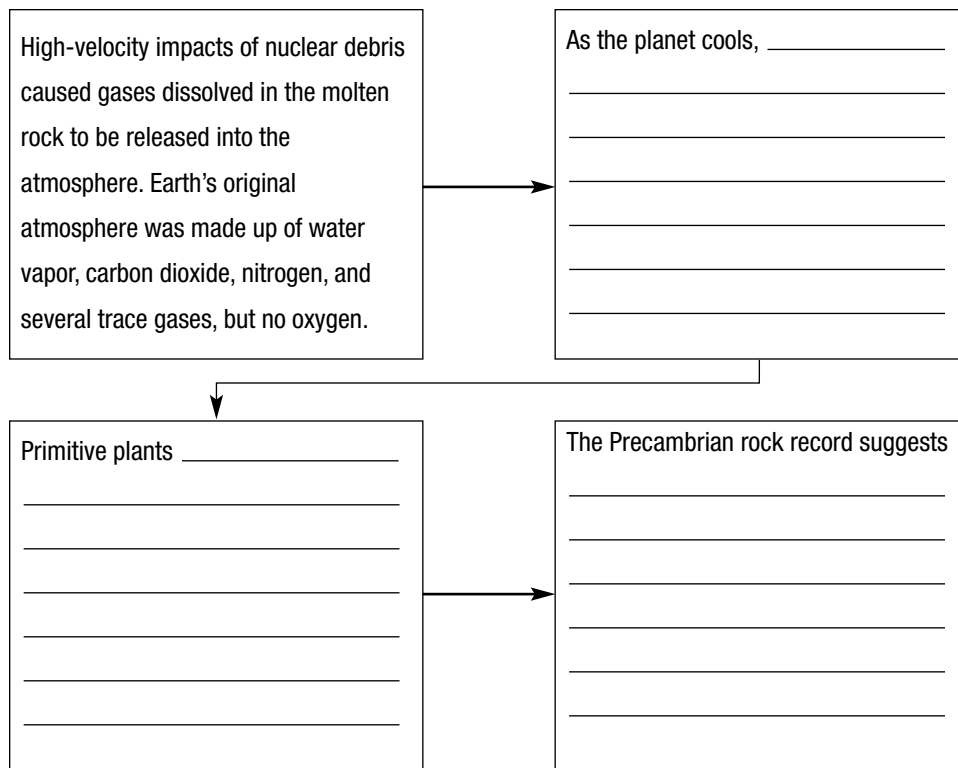
3. Explain why Precambrian history is scattered and incomplete.

Chapter 13 Earth's History

Match each description to its term.

Description	Term
_____ 4. the most common Precambrian fossils	a. shields
_____ 5. large core areas of Precambrian rocks dominating the surface of some continents	b. stromatolites
_____ 6. source of information about Precambrian rocks	c. ores
_____ 7. a hard, dense chemical sedimentary rock	d. chert
8. Complete the following flowchart.	

How Earth's Atmosphere Changed Over Time



9. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about Precambrian fossils.

- a. The most common Precambrian fossils are stromatolites.
- b. Many of the ancient fossils are preserved in chert.
- c. Most fossils found in chert are eukaryotes.
- d. Animal fossils date to the early Precambrian time.

10. Is the following sentence true or false? Trace fossils are not fossils of the animals themselves but are impressions of their activities, such as trails and worm holes. _____