

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

## Discussion Questions

You can find these fossil pictures at:

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/educators/teachstuds/pdf/whales\\_inthe\\_making.pdf](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/educators/teachstuds/pdf/whales_inthe_making.pdf)

- A. (After Fossil Strips 1 and 2) Do you think the Mesonychid is an ancestor to the modern whales? Why or why not?
- B. (After Fossil Strip 5) Where do you see the biggest gap in the fossils in years? What is the biggest gap in features of the animals? (Hint: Think which two look the most different.)
- C. (After Fossil Strip 5) What features would we expect to find in the fossils that fill the missing gap? (Legs, body size or length, nostrils, etc)
- D. Did your predicted features (#3) for the missing fossil match the *Ambulocetus* found? Does it fit in between *Mesonychids* and *Rodhocetus*?
- E. What changes happened to the fossils first? (Look at Mesonychid, Pakicetus, and Ambulocetus.)
- F. Which changes happened to the fossils much later? (Look at Basilosaurus, Rhodocetus and Dorudon.)