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?

1. Appalachian Mountains, USA
2. **Sulaiman Mountain Range, Pakistan**
3. Wetterstein Mountains, Germany
4. Mount Kinabalu, Malaysia

**2) What can we infer about the mountains?**

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

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

1. **46 million years**
2. 4.6 million years
3. 46 thousand years
4. 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.