ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

400 Must Have Words for the TOEFL LESSON 14 – Anthropology Vocabulary Test

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1	**E**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**B**	5	**A**	6	**A**	7	**C**	8	**B**	9	**E**	10	**D**
11	**A**	12	**A**																

Explanations

1. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence.

In many cultures around the world, young boys are circumcised in a traditional ceremony.
✔ **E) ritual**
Ritual can be used as an adjective that means done as part of a fixed, traditional ceremony, so **a ritual ceremony** means **a traditional ceremony**. Example: **a ritual dance**.

2. It is difficult to tame a bird that was born in the wild.
✔ **C) domesticate**
To **domesticate** an animal means to tame it so that it can live with people or be kept by them. Example: **Dogs were domesticated thousands of years ago.**

3. Based on the oral legends about the fire, researchers estimate that about half of the townspeople died in the blaze.
✔ **D) folklore**
Folklore means the traditional stories and beliefs of a group of people, usually passed on by word of mouth. That is the same idea as **oral legends**.

4. After the burning of the body, the remaining bits of bone are transferred to a large urn.
✔ **B) cremation**
Cremation is the burning of a dead person's body, after which the ashes are often kept in an urn. Not **ritual**: a ritual is a ceremony in general, not the burning itself.

5. Her husband could never fit into her family's way of life.
✔ **A) assimilate**
To **assimilate** means to become part of a group or culture and fit into its way of life. Example: **Immigrants often assimilate into their new country over time.**

6. Find the best word for each definition. Use each word only once.

to harden after death
✔ **A) fossilize**
To **fossilize** means that the remains of a dead plant or animal slowly turn hard, like stone, over a very long time. It is the only verb among the options.

7. a customary act
✔ **C) rite**
A **rite** is a customary act, often a ceremony, that people perform in a fixed way. Example: **Weddings are important rites in many cultures.**

8. a memento
✔ **B) relic**
A **relic** is an object from the past that is kept as a memento, often because of its history. Not **vestige**: a vestige is a small trace of something that has mostly disappeared, not an object kept as a souvenir.

9. something remaining from the past
✔ **E) vestige**
A **vestige** is a small part or trace of something from the past that still remains. Example: **vestiges of an ancient city**. Not **relic**, which is already used for **a memento**.

10. a long story
✔ **D) saga**
A **saga** is a long story, often about a family, a people or heroic events over many years. Example: **the saga of their long journey**.

11. Which sentence best expresses the essential information in this passage?
✔ **A) Australian Aborigines were some of the Earth's first people.**
The passage opens with its main idea: the Aborigines **may have been some of the first people on the planet**. The rest gives evidence and background for this. Not the Africa option: the passage says they came **from northern lands by sea**, not from Africa.

12. In this passage, the word **ritually** is closest in meaning to _____.
✔ **A) regularly**
Ritually here means doing something as a fixed, repeated custom, so the hunters **regularly** covered themselves in mud as part of their hunting tradition. Not **superstitiously**: the passage gives practical reasons, to **mask their own scent** or for **camouflage**.