

Relative Dating Notes

To determine the age of rocks, scientists use _____ and _____ dating.

Relative Dating – Key Principles

1. **Law of Superposition:** in an _____ bed of sedimentary rocks, the rocks on the bottom are _____ than the rocks on the top layers. Each layer upward is _____ than the layer below it.
2. **Principles of Original Horizontality:** Layers of sediment are generally deposited in a _____ or flat position. If the layers aren't flat and horizontal then after they were originally formed they were _____ into their new position.
3. **Principle of Crosscutting Relationship:** If a fault cuts through other rocks, then the rocks it cuts through are _____ than the fault. The faults and dikes occurred _____ the sedimentary layers were deposited.
4. **Inclusion:** pieces of one _____ unit that are _____ in another. The rocks contained in the layer are _____ then the layer itself.
5. **Unconformities:** represent a break in the rock _____, attributed to _____ and new deposits of sedimentation.
6. **Correlation:** comparing rocks of similar age in _____ regions to develop a geologic _____ scale.

Fossils: Evidence of Past Life

7. **Principle of fossil succession:** Fossil organisms succeed one another in a definite and determinable _____, so any _____ period can be recognized by its fossil content.
8. **Index Fossil:** A fossil that is associated with a particular span of geologic _____.