



## Directed Reading for Content Mastery

## Section 2 ■ Relative Ages of Rocks

### Section 3 ■ Absolute Ages of Rocks

**Directions:** In the blank at the left, write the letter of the term or phrase that best completes each statement.

B

1. In layers of undisturbed sedimentary rock, the oldest rocks are on the \_\_\_\_\_.

a. top

**b. bottom**

A

2. The statement that old rocks are on the bottom in layers of undisturbed rock is called the \_\_\_\_\_.

a. principle of superposition

**b. tectonic theory**

B

3. Sometimes layers of rock are overturned by forces generated by \_\_\_\_\_.

a. superposition

**b. mountain building**

A

4. Determining the age of rocks by examining their position in a layer is called \_\_\_\_\_.

a. relative dating

**b. faulting**

B

5. Gaps in rock layers are called \_\_\_\_\_.

a. faults

**b. unconformities**

B

6. The type of unconformity in which an erosional surface exists in one of several horizontal layers is called a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

a. angular unconformity

**b. disconformity**

B

7. Matching of rock layers in two different areas is called \_\_\_\_\_ the layers.

a. concluding

**b. correlating**

A

8. One way to match rock layers that are apart is to see if the same type of \_\_\_\_\_ are found in both places.

a. fossils

**b. water**

*f*

9. In absolute dating, geologists determine the age of rock by reading its \_\_\_\_\_ decay.

a. organic

**b. radioactive**

A

10. When an isotope in the rock decays, a new \_\_\_\_\_ is formed.

a. element

b. proton