



Directed Reading for
Content Mastery

Key Terms

Clues to Earth's Past

Directions: Match the following terms with the definitions below. Write the terms on the lines provided.

absolute age	carbonaceous film	superposition	cast
mold	unconformity	half-life	index
remains	relative	decay	uniformitarianism

Unconformity

Fossils

Carbon Film

Remains

Absolute Age

Relative

Half-Life

Decay

Superposition

Dating

Mold

Uniformitarianism

Cast

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- any gap in a rock record
- the remains, imprints, or traces of prehistoric organisms
- the thin film of carbon that shows the outline of an organism
- Permineralized _____ are fossils in which the spaces inside are filled with minerals from ground water.
- the age, in years, of a rock or other object
- A _____ age is something's age in comparison to something else.
- the time it takes for half of the atoms in an isotope to decay
- Radioactive _____ is the breaking down of some isotopes into other isotopes and particles.
- principle that says if rocks are undisturbed, older layers are under younger layers
- Radiometric _____ is a method used to calculate the absolute age of a rock.
- cavity in rock from which an organism has decayed.
- the principle that Earth processes occurring today are similar to those that occurred in the past
- fossil created when a sediment fills a mold and hardens
- A(n) _____ fossil is the remains of an organism that lived during a specific time that is used to define the age of a particular rock layer.