Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Analysis: Part 1

4. Do the *X*s make a pattern across the table? What would you conclude if there were an *X* outside the pattern?

_____

_____

5. Based on the information in your table, which fossil is the youngest?

_____

6. From the information you have, are you able to tell exactly how old a certain fossil is? Why or why not?

_____

_____

7. What information does relative dating provide to paleontologists?

_____

_____

Procedure: Part 2

8. You are planning to prepare a timeline for the paleontologist in California. But when the results, shown below, come in from the geology lab, you discover that the dates have become separated from the appropriate rock samples. Absolute dating is very expensive, and you can't have it done again. But wait! You have already determined the relative ages of the samples. All you have to do is arrange the dates from oldest to youngest and label your table from bottom to top. Add these dates to your data table.

Fossil Ages

The dates provided by the geology lab are as follows: 28.5 mya, 30.2 mya, 18.3 mya, 17.6 mya, 26.3 mya, 14.2 mya, 23.1 mya, 15.5 mya, and 19.5 mya.