

Dating the Fossil Record, continued

9. Your table now contains all the information you need to make a timeline for the paleontologist in California. Use colored markers and poster board to make your timeline. You may want to draw a rock wall showing several layers. To do this, label each layer with a date and the names of the fossils found there. Or you may want to draw a line with the dates labeled on the line and the fossils sketched above the appropriate date. Be creative!

Analysis: Part 2

10. Based on absolute dating, which fossil organism lived for the longest period of time? Which fossil organism lived for the shortest period of time? Explain your answers.

11. Based on the information in your timeline, what age range would you assign to the fossil of *Circus bozoensis*? Hint: Measure from the year that the fossil first appeared in the rock record to the first year it was absent in the rock record.

12. Determine the age ranges of all of your fossil species.

Going Further

Using the library or the Internet, investigate whether the absolute dating of rock surrounding fossils is the most reliable method of dating. Find out what circumstances prevent absolute dating.