

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

Read the text, and then answer the questions that follow.

Have you ever wondered how old our planet is? Scientists certainly have! Scientists who specialize in studying Earth's physical structure and history, called **geologists**, estimate that Earth is about 4.6 billion years old. This estimate is based on a thorough analysis of rock layers and the fossil record.

Geologists describe the age of a rock in two ways: relative age and absolute age. The **relative age** of a rock is its age compared to the ages of other rocks. **Absolute age** is the number of years that have passed since the rock formed, and it is calculated through a process called radioactive dating. By studying clues in Earth's rocks and determining their ages, geologists can organize past events into a sequence called the **geologic time scale**.



To find a rock's relative age, geologists use a number of different clues:

- The **law of superposition** states that, in undisturbed horizontal sedimentary rock layers, the oldest layer is at the bottom and the youngest layer is at the top.
- Lava that hardens on Earth's surface forms an igneous **extrusion**. An extrusion is younger than the rock it covers.
- Magma that pushes into layers of rock below Earth's surface and hardens forms an igneous **intrusion**. An intrusion is younger than the rock around it.
- A **fault** is a break in Earth's crust caused by forces inside the Earth. A fault is always younger than the rock it cuts through.
- **Index fossils** are fossils of an organism that was widely distributed and existed for a geologically short period of time. Geologists infer that rock layers with matching index fossils are the same age.

Use the information you learned from the passage to answer the questions below.

1. Look at the image to the right. A fault was created in the rock layers during an earthquake. Did the earthquake occur before or after sedimentary rock layers A, B, and C were deposited? Explain.



2. A geologist finds the same type of index fossil in a rock layer in Kansas and in a rock layer over 7,000 miles away in the Himalayan foothills. What can she infer about the ages of the two rock layers?

Geologic Time Scale Activity Answer Key

Charles W. Barnes



Geologic Time Scale Activity Answer Key:

Reviewing **Geologic Time Scale Activity Answer Key**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is actually astonishing. Within the pages of "**Geologic Time Scale Activity Answer Key**," an enthralling opus penned by a very acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve in to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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