

**1. Which of these numbers is closest to the age of the earth?**

- a. 4,600 years
- b. 460,000 years
- c. 46 million years
- d. 4.6 billion years

**2. What is the main purpose of the geologic time scale?**

- a. To organize the major eras of Earth's history
- b. To compare very short and very long periods of time
- c. To compete with other, non-geologic time scales
- d. To help people understand that the planet is really old

**3. Place the following units in order, from smallest to largest.**

- a. Epoch, period, eon
- b. Eon, epoch, period
- c. Period, eon, epoch
- d. Epoch, eon, period

**4. Generally speaking, which rock layers are the oldest?**

- a. The thinnest ones
- b. The thickest ones
- c. The ones furthest from the surface
- d. The ones closest to the surface

**5. What can you conclude from the fact that there have been just four eons in Earth's history?**

- a. Eons are very short periods of time
- b. Eons always last less than 1 billion years
- c. Geologists only began naming eons recently
- d. There have been at least eight periods in earth's history

**6. What event might mark the end of a period?**

- a. The fact that 100 million years had elapsed since the end of the previous period
- b. A major geologic change
- c. The appearance of one new species
- d. The gradual drifting of the continents

**7. What can you infer about the Maastrichtian Age from its name?**

- a. That it was the most strict geological age in history
- b. Nothing—the names of geologic ages are meaningless
- c. Rocks from this era were first studied near the city of Maastricht, Netherlands
- d. That it was an extremely long, complicated age

**8. How would the human time scale be different if we measured it in relative, instead of specific, time? Choose the best answer.**

- a. Days would be longer than months
- b. One week might be longer or shorter than the next
- c. No one would know what time it was
- d. The future would occur before the past and present

**9. What does a stratigraphist study?**

- a. Dinosaurs
- b. Time
- c. Rock layers
- d. The formation of the earth

**10. How does radiometric dating differ from the ages of the geologic time scale?**

- a. Radiometric dating involves absolute dates; the geologic time scale is measured with relative dates
- b. Radiometric dating can only be used on fossils; the geologic time scale applies only to rocks
- c. Radiometric dating involves unstable, radioactive isotopes; the geologic time scale deals only with stable rocks and compounds
- d. Radiometric dating involves relative dates; the geologic time scale is measured with absolute dates

## GEOLOGIC TIME

### DRAW IT

Draw an arrow from each of the following fossils to where it would most likely be found in the rock layer diagram.



200 MILLION YEARS OLD



270 MILLION YEARS OLD



110 MILLION YEARS OLD



### GREATER THAN OR LESS THAN

Show how the geologic time units compare to each other by filling in the blank with the correct sign: ">" for "greater than," "<" for "less than."

Number of . . .	Length of . . .
Eons ..... Eras	Periods ..... Epochs
Periods ..... Eons	Eras ..... Periods
Eras ..... Epochs	Epochs ..... Eons
Eras ..... Periods	Eons ..... Periods
Eons ..... Epochs	Eras ..... Epochs
Epochs ..... Periods	Eras ..... Eons