

Chapter 6 Study Guide: The Rock and Fossil Record

1. What process involves the comparison of rock layers with others in a sequence to determine its age?

2. The phrase “younger over older” could be used to remember the principle of _____.
3. In layers of rock, where would you find the youngest layer? _____
4. In layers of rock, where would you find the oldest layer? _____
5. How are rock layers arranged in the geologic column? _____
6. Describe the geologic column and how it is assembled. _____

7. Erosion is one of the major causes of missing rock layers, known as _____.
8. Explain what an unconformity is and give an example. _____

9. What is a fault? _____
10. What is tilting? _____
11. What do geologists use to date rock layers? _____
12. What are most fossils preserved in? _____
13. What kind of temperatures will slow down an organism’s decay? _____
14. Give an example of mineral replacement. _____
15. What is amber? _____
16. Give an example of a trace fossil. _____
17. What can animal tracks tell about the animals that left them? _____
18. If a trilobite was buried by ocean sediment, it would leave a cavity, also known as a _____.
19. What can a scientist learn from studying the relationship between fossils? _____
20. What could a scientist infer if he found marine fossils on a mountain top? _____

21. Which part of an animal is more commonly preserved? _____
22. Why is the fossil record incomplete? _____
23. What is the standard method that divides Earth’s history into parts? _____

24. Geologic history is divided into four_____
25. What is the largest division of geologic time?_____
26. What unit of geologic time includes two or more periods?_____
27. What term describes the death of a species?_____
28. What is the third largest division of geologic time?_____
29. What is the fourth largest division geologic time?_____
30. What are the four eons in order from oldest to most recent?_____
31. The Phanerozoic eon is divided into what three eras?_____
32. What era means “old life”?_____
33. Which era is dominated by reptiles?_____
34. Which era is dominated by mammals?_____
35. What is the largest division of geologic time?_____
36. Which era ended in the largest mass extinction in Earth’s history?_____
37. Which era did birds and small mammals begin to evolve?_____
38. Which era are we in now?_____
39. Define independent variable._____
40. Define dependent variable._____
41. Define control._____
42. Define controlled variable._____
43. A girl saw a commercial on TV for a chocolate substitute. The commercial claims the chocolate substitute tastes no different from real chocolate. The girl wants to test to see if this is true. She assembles two groups of people with equal amounts of men and women. She gives real chocolate to group 1 and she gives the chocolate substitute to group 2. She has the people rate the flavor of the chocolate on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the most flavorful.
- A. What is the dependent variable?_____
- B. What is the independent variable?_____
- C. What is the control?_____
- D. List a controlled variable._____