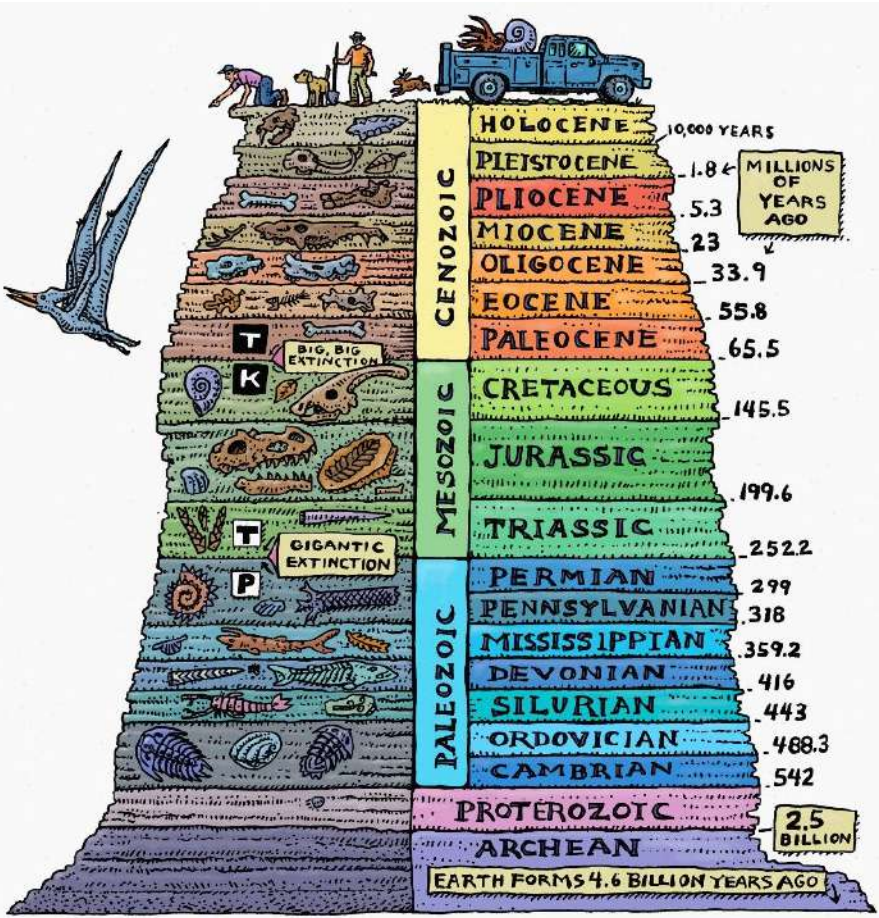
Law of Superposition

Younger

Older

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene	← Today
			Pleistocene	← 11.8 Ka
		Neogene	Pliocene	
			Miocene	
		Paleogene	Oligocene	
			Eocene	
			Paleocene	← 66 Ma
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	~	
		Jurassic	~	
		Triassic	~	← 252 Ma
	Paleozoic	Permian	~	
		Carboniferous: Pennsylvanian	~	
		Carboniferous: Mississippian	~	
		Devonian	~	
		Silurian	~	
		Ordovician	~	
		Cambrian	~	← 541 Ma
Proterozoic	~	~	~	← 2.5 Ga
Archean	~	~	~	← 4.0 Ga
Hadean	~	~	~	← 4.54 Ga


CENOZOIC
MESOZOIC
PALEOZOIC
HOLOCENE
10,000 YEARS
PLEISTOCENE
1.8
PLIOCENE
5.3
MIOCENE
23
OLIGOCENE
33.9
EOCENE
55.8
PALEOCENE
65.5
CRETACEOUS
145.5
JURASSIC
199.6
TRIASSIC
252.2
PERMIAN
299
PENNSYLVANIAN
318
MISSISSIPPIAN
359.2
DEVONIAN
416
SILURIAN
443
ORDOVICIAN
488.3
CAMBRIAN
542
PROTEROZOIC
2.5 BILLION
ARCHEAN
EARTH FORMS 4.6 BILLION YEARS AGO
MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO
T
K
BIG, BIG EXTINCTION
T
P
GIGANTIC EXTINCTION

Complete the following vocabulary definitions:

_____ - The trace or remains of an organism that lived long ago, most commonly preserved in sedimentary rock

_____ - Younger rocks lie above older rocks if the layers have not been disturbed

_____ - Any method of determining whether an event or object is older or younger than other events or objects

_____ - A fossil that is found in the rock layers of only one geologic age and is used to establish the age of the rock layers. Is found in rock layers around the world, ex Trilobites

Activity #1:

In the boxes to the left, write the letters in order with the youngest at the top to the oldest at the bottom.

Oldest letter(s)?

Youngest letter(s):

What letter(s) showed up the most?

Which letter(s) only showed up once?

Were there any index fossils? Explain.

How did you know which was older: "M" or "X"?

Activity # 2:

In the boxes to the let, write the letter of each fossil card in order with the youngest at the top and the oldest at the bottom.

Oldest organism(s)?

Youngest organism(s)?

What problems did you run into when trying to arrange the fossils into the correct sequence?

Would this have been more difficult if you did not know which layer was the oldest to start the activity? Explain.

Which organism is the most complex of all the fossils and why?

Uncover me at the end to check your work!