

***Index Fossils –
READ pages 117-121
In Earth's Changing Surface***

Define these words

Relative age

Absolute age

Law of superposition

Index fossils

Use the image on page 122 to answer these questions:

1. Using the law of superposition and the picture of Site 1, explain the relative ages of rock layer A versus rock layer G.

2. Using the key, why do you think there aren't any fossils in rock layers C, E, or X?
What type of rock is this?

3. Using the key, what Era do you think rock layer D (Site 1) is from and WHY?

4. Using the key, what Era do you think rock layer Z (Site 2) is from and WHY?

5. At Site 1, based on the fossil evidence, describe the ways the environment must have changed in that area over time.

6. Which rock layers at Site 2 would you say are the same relative age as some of the rock layers at Site 1, and WHY?

7. Which of the fossils could be considered index fossils and WHY?

8. Name 2 fossils that could NOT be considered index fossils, and WHY NOT:

9. Using the computers and the internet, can you determine which Era AND time period rock layer A is probably from and WHY? What about layer B?
