

SECTION 15-1 REVIEW

THE FOSSIL RECORD

VOCABULARY REVIEW Explain the relationship between the terms in each of the following pairs of terms.

1. mold, cast _____

2. stratum, law of superposition _____

3. relative age, absolute age _____

4. extinct, mass extinction _____

MULTIPLE CHOICE Write the correct letter in the blank.

- _____ 1. Fossils are formed

a. from animals but not plants. b. primarily from the soft tissues of an organism.	c. most often in sedimentary rock. d. in ways that reveal the structure but not the behavior of an organism.
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- _____ 2. When hard minerals fill an imprint of an organism, they eventually form a model of the organism called a

a. cast.	b. mold.	c. tissue.	d. stratum.
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- _____ 3. According to the law of superposition, the lowest layer in a cross section of rock

a. is the most recent. b. is the oldest.	c. has the fewest fossils. d. contains only the fossils of burrowing animals.
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- _____ 4. The fossil record indicates that the first organisms to appear on Earth were

a. marine invertebrates. b. land plants.	c. reptiles. d. prokaryotes.
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- _____ 5. A comparison of recently formed fossil types with types of living organisms shows that

a. new organisms arise in areas where similar forms already live. b. modern organisms are very different from extinct forms that inhabited the same area. c. organisms that become extinct do not resemble modern organisms.	d. a new organism cannot arise in an area until a similar form has already become extinct.
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SHORT ANSWER Answer the questions in the space provided.

1. Describe what fossils are, and list three different kinds. _____

2. How was the microscope important in determining the true nature of fossils? _____

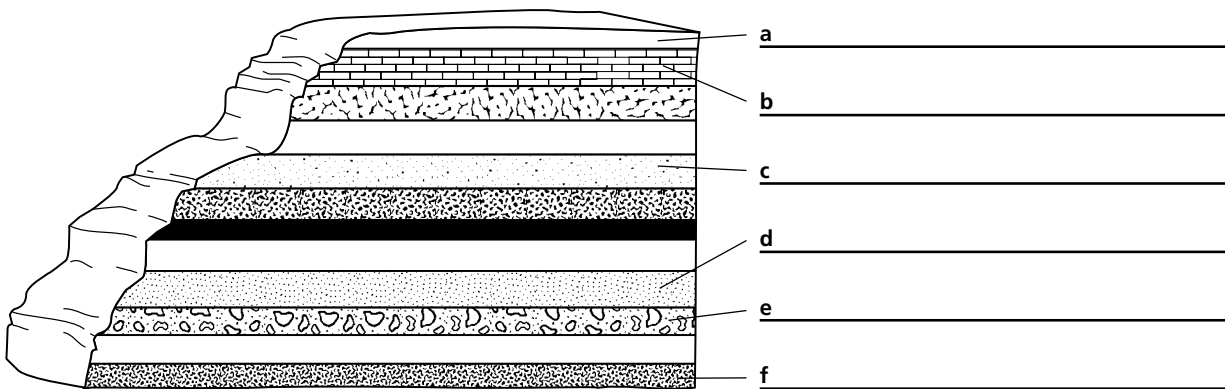
3. How does biogeography contribute to an understanding of evolution? _____

4. Explain the evidence that indicates there has been a succession of forms. _____

5. **Critical Thinking** What uncertainties would be involved in estimating a fossil's absolute age from the amount of sediment deposited above the fossil? _____

STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS Indicate the relative ages of the fossilized organisms listed below by placing them in the correct strata on the diagram of a cross section of sedimentary rock below.

first fishes, early horses, first prokaryotes, modern humans, first land plants, first dinosaurs



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