

Name_____

Date_____Per_____

Solve a Sedimentary Layers Puzzle

Purpose: How to determine the correct sequence of sedimentary rock layers using the fossils found within them.

Part A: Take the 5 strips (A to E) that represents a sedimentary rock layer formed during a certain time period. Put the layers in correct order. Begin by placing B, the "oldest layer," on the bottom then decide which layer comes next. The youngest layer will be on the top.

1. What is the order of your layers from bottom to top? (oldest to newest)
2. What organisms survived from one time period to the next?
3. What organisms disappeared?

Part B: Using the same technique as in Part A, organize the layers of soil (green).

1. What is the order of your soil "alphabet"?

Part C: Put the more complex (pink) fossils in the correct order.

1. What is the order of your fossils?
2. Were there any fossils that survived through all the layers?
3. What organisms disappeared?
4. Why didn't all organisms show up in all the layers? What do you think happened?
5. Why did some organisms show up in the middle layers?