Fossil Vocabulary

Fossil-remains or traces of an organism that lived long ago.

Mold-imprint or hollow in rock that is shaped like and made by an organism

Cast-mold filled with hardened sediments

Amber-hardened tree sap

Law of superposition-states that each undisturbed sedimentary rock layer is older than the layer above it

Relative age-age of an object compared to the age of another object

Index fossil-fossil used to help determine the relative age of rock layers

Absolute age-true age of a rock or fossil

Geologic time scale-outline of the major divisions in Earth’s history

Fossil fuel-natural fuel that was formed from the remains of living things