

Name: _____

Virtual Lab: Fossil Data Tables

Dig Site 1

Rock/Sediment Layer	Name of Fossil Found (at least two in layers 1 & 3)	Time Period of Fossil Found	Radiometric (Absolute) Dating Results (Layers 2 & 4)
1			
2			
3			
4			

Dig Site 2

Rock/Sediment Layer	Name of Fossil Found (at least two in layers 1 & 3)	Time Period of Fossil Found	Radiometric (Absolute) Dating Results (Layers 2 & 4)
1			
2			
3			
4			

Dig Site 3

Rock/Sediment Layer	Name of Fossil Found (at least two in layers 1 & 3)	Time Period of Fossil Found	Radiometric (Absolute) Dating Results (Layers 2 & 4)
1			
2			
3			
4			

Virtual Lab: Fossil Data

Conclusion Questions

1. What does the principle of superposition state?
2. Which dig site(s) data supports the principle of superposition? Explain.
3. How can you explain the fact that at Dig site 3 there is an older rock layer above a younger rock layer?
4. What is the difference between relative dating and absolute dating?
5. Why would you use radiometric (absolute) dating to date the igneous rock layers, but not the sedimentary rock layers?

*Modified from Columbus City Schools