Name	Data	Class
Name	Date	Class

A Trip Through Geologic Time • Skills Lab

Finding Clues to Rock Layers

Fossil clues give geologists a good idea of what life on Earth was like millions or even billions of years ago.

Problem

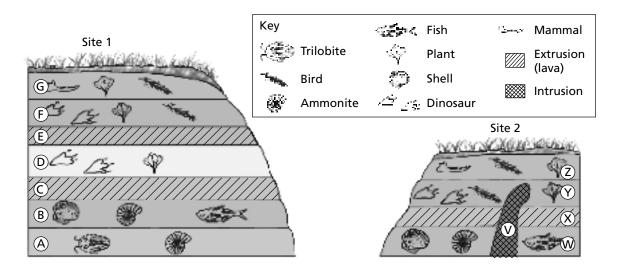
How can you use fossils and geologic features to interpret the relative ages of rock layers?

Skills Focus

interpreting data, drawing conclusions

Procedure

- 1. Study the rock layers at Sites 1 and 2. Write down the similarities and differences between the layers at the two sites.
- **2.** List the kinds of fossils that are found in each rock layer of Sites 1 and 2.



Analyze and Conclude

Write your answers on the lines provided. Use a separate sheet of paper if you need more room.

Site 1

1.	Interpreting Data	What "fossils clue	es" in layers A and B indi	cate the
	kind of environmer	nt that existed whe	en these rock layers were	formed?
	How did the enviro	nment change in	layer D?	

2.	Drawing Conclusions	Which layer is the oldest? How	do you know?

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do you know?	Which of the layers formed	most recently? How		
Inferring Why are there no fossils in layers C and E?				
Observing What kind o	of fossils occurred in layer F	7?		
Site 2 5. Inferring Which layer a layer W at Site 2?	at Site 1 might have formed	at the same time as		
<u> </u>	ect What clues show an unrs? Which rock layers are mrock layers?	, O 1		
. Interpreting Data Whiknow?	ch is older, intrusion V or la	yer Y? How do you		
at Site 2 changed over ti	a journal entry describing he. Starting with the earlied renvironment, and how the	st layer, describe the		

More to Explore

Draw a sketch similar to Site 2, and include a fault that cuts across the intrusion. Have a partner then identify the relative ages of the fault, the intrusion, and the layers cut by the fault.