Name_____ Date_____ Section_____

Earth Science Unit 2 Earth's History

Title: Activity 6 Relative Dating

Challenge Question: How are the relative ages of rock measured?

Background: *How can rocks tell scientists about the past? How can fossils tell scientists about the past?*

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Materials:

The Dynamic Earth book

Vocabulary: Define the following terms in your own words.

Term	Definition	Picture or Example
relative dating		
superposition		
unconformity		
fossil		
geologic column		

Procedures:

1. Read pages 92 – 101 in the ***Dynamic Earth*** book.
2. Answer questions 1 – 3, 6 – 15, and 17 – 19 from the reading.
3. Do Lesson Review on page 103, questions 1 – 11.
4. Create definitions for the Vocabulary. Answer Analysis Questions.

Data/Results: *(Write your responses to the book questions on a separate sheet of paper.)*

Analysis Questions:

1. The law of superposition is like the ingredients in a sandwich: New layers are piled on top of older ones. Scientists study rock layers to gather data about the time period when each layer formed. Why is the law of superposition most easily applied to undisturbed rock layers?

2. What is relative dating? How accurate is relative dating?

3. What is an unconformity?

4. What is a geologic column? How are geologic columns used by scientists?

5. How do scientists handle relative dating differently when rock layers are disturbed versus undisturbed?