

Unit 3 Geologic Time

Concepts

1. Geology
2. Geologic dating
3. Geologic time
4. Continental drift
5. Plate tectonics

Essential Questions

1. How have the geologic sciences developed over time?
2. How can scientists determine ages of geologic material?
3. How do scientists use the geologic time scale to understand and describe natural history?
4. How does the concept of continental drift help explain the world?
5. How does the theory of plate tectonics help explain the world?

Terminology

catastrophism, uniformitarianism, relative age, absolute age, law of superposition, unconformity, law of crosscutting relationships, varves, radiometric dating, isotopes, decay, half-life, era, period, epoch, Precambrian, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, mass extinction, Cenozoic, continental drift, mid-ocean ridge, sea-floor spreading, paleomagnetism, plate tectonics, lithosphere, asthenosphere, divergent, convergent, transform, rifting, terrane, supercontinent cycle, Pangaea, Laurasia, Gondwanaland, subduction, trench, convection,