

Name _____

Date _____

Relative Ages of Rocks

Directions: In the blank at the left, write the term that completes each statement.

- _____ 1. Natural laws govern the way geologists determine the age of rock deposits. This technique is called _____.
- _____ 2. The principle of _____ states that an older rock layer and things buried in it occur beneath younger layers unless the layers have been disturbed.
- _____ 3. Some rock layers are incomplete. The gaps are called _____.
- _____ 4. A common cause of gaps in rock layers is _____.

Directions: Look at the cross-sectional view of the rock layers shown in Figure 1. For each question, decide which of the two named materials is older. Assume the layers have not been overturned. Write the name of the older material on the line provided.

- _____ 5. tan sandstone and brown sandstone
- _____ 6. brown sandstone and gray limestone
- _____ 7. gabbro dike and brown sandstone
- _____ 8. gabbro dike and gray shale
- _____ 9. snail fossil and trilobite fossil
- _____ 10. snail fossil and dinosaur bone
- _____ 11. snail fossil and green shale
- _____ 12. dinosaur bone and red sandstone
- _____ 13. red sandstone and gray limestone
- _____ 14. tan limestone and tan sandstone
- _____ 15. tan limestone and gray limestone
- _____ 16. The type of unconformity shown in Figure 1 is a(n) _____.

Figure 1

