

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**

