

Name _____

Period _____ Date _____

THINKING ABOUT INDEX FOSSILS

1. What big ideas did the following people contribute to the study of fossils? How did their ideas help people better understand fossils and what they mean?

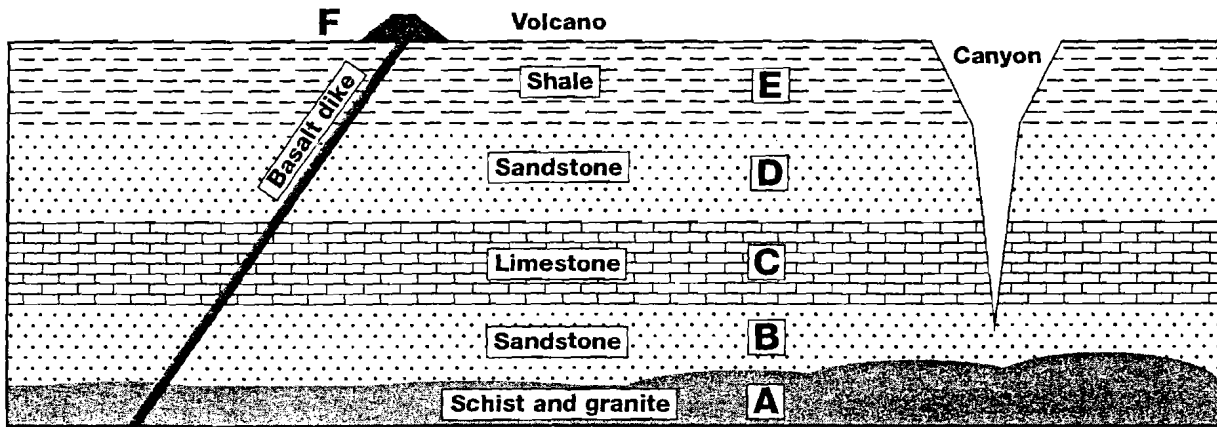
a. James Hutton _____

b. Lamarck _____

c. William Smith _____

2. Fossils have been called the index to Earth history. What does that mean?

3. This illustration shows what might be a typical column of rocks exposed in a canyon on the Colorado Plateau. Using potassium-argon dating, geologists have calculated an age of 200 million years for rock A, a granite. Rock F, the volcano, has been given an age of 225,000 years.



a. How can you use this information to estimate the age of rock layers B, C, D, and E?

b. Which is younger, the volcano or the basalt dike leading up to it?

4. What Principle helps Explain
The above question _____
