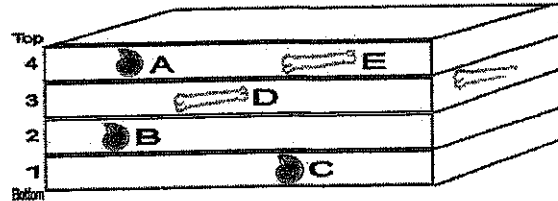


Sedimentary Rock Worksheet

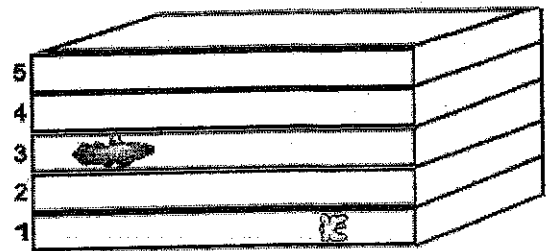
Sedimentary rocks are particularly important in the understanding of the Earth's history. These rocks are formed at the Earth's surface as layers of sediment (small particles broken down from other rocks) build up, and pressure compresses them into rock. Each layer of rock records the nature of the environment at the time that it was laid down. The layers are the characteristic feature of sedimentary rocks, the oldest ones being located at the bottom of the sequence as they were deposited first. Fossils are probably the most important inclusions found in sedimentary rocks. Knowing something about these prehistoric life-forms and the rock they are found in can help us to recreate environments and ecosystems from the past.

Use the pictures on the right to answer the following questions.

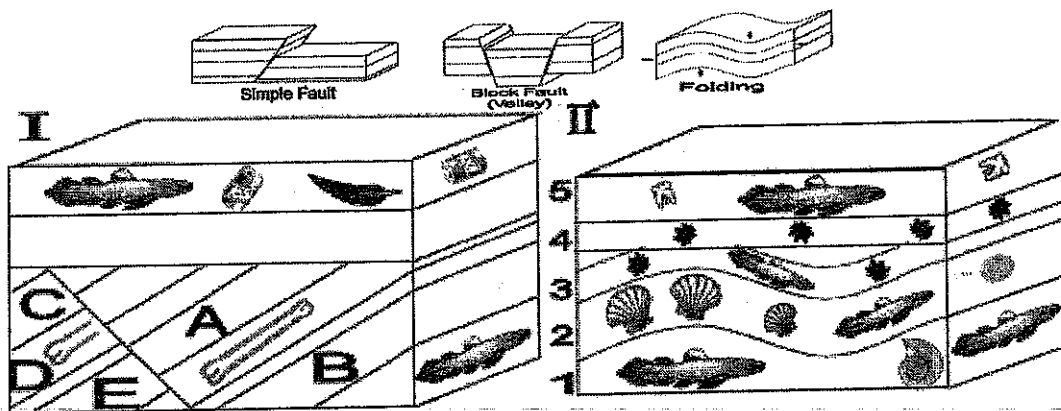
1. Which shell is the oldest?
2. There are no shells in Layer 3, why might this be?
3. No dinosaur bone is found below Layer 2, this might mean:



4. If you also found a softdrink can in Layer 3, what could you say about Layers 3, 4, & 5?
5. Are there likely to be dinosaur bones in any of these layers? Explain.



Sometimes rocks are reshaped as a result of movement. This can be seen when rock layers are not simple straight layers or no longer match up. Faulting occurs when the rock layers move along a weak point or fault line. Fossils are sometimes used to match layers that are no longer contiguous. Some folded or faulted formations may then be eroded to a flat surface before more layers of sediment are deposited on the surface. This is called an unconformity



6. In diagram I, which layer is the same as Layer A?
7. In diagram II, which layers do you think were laid down in the Ocean? _____
8. Which were deposited on or near land? _____
9. What can you say about the top layer in diagram I?