

Earth History Assessed Understandings

1. Compared to the age of the Earth, humans have only been present for a very short period of time. Therefore, geologists make inferences based on their observations to understand Earth's history. Evidence from rocks and fossils can help scientist make inferences about the past.
2. Rock layers form on top of each other; therefore, the oldest rocks are generally found on the bottom, and the youngest are generally found on the top.
3. The Earth's surface is constantly changing because of the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition.
4. Rocks are weathered into sediments. These sediments may be eroded and deposited in other locations.
5. Energy from Earth's interior drives the movement of continents. Evidence for the movement can be found in the fit of the continental coastlines, similarity of rock types, and fossil remains.