

Categorize: The Difference Between Relative and Absolute Dating

Directions: Classify each item in the appropriate category.

Items

1. The rock is 3.9 billion years old

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

2. Dating method that was developed first

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

3. Dating method that was developed later

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

4. Method that places events in sequential order

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

5. Fossil A is 2 million years old

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

6. A given sandstone is younger than a shale

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

7. Fossil A is older than Fossil B

Relative Dating

Absolute Dating

Answers

1. absolute dating

Feedback: Saying that a rock is 3.9 billion years old is an example of absolute dating.

2. relative dating

Feedback: Relative dating was developed before absolute dating.

3. absolute dating

Feedback: Absolute dating was developed about a century after relative dating.

4. relative dating

Feedback: Relative dating places events or objects in sequential order.

5. absolute dating

Feedback: Saying that a fossil is 2 million years old is an example of absolute dating.

6. relative dating

Feedback: Saying that one rock sample is younger than another is an example of relative dating.

7. relative dating

Feedback: Saying that one fossil is older than another is an example of relative dating.