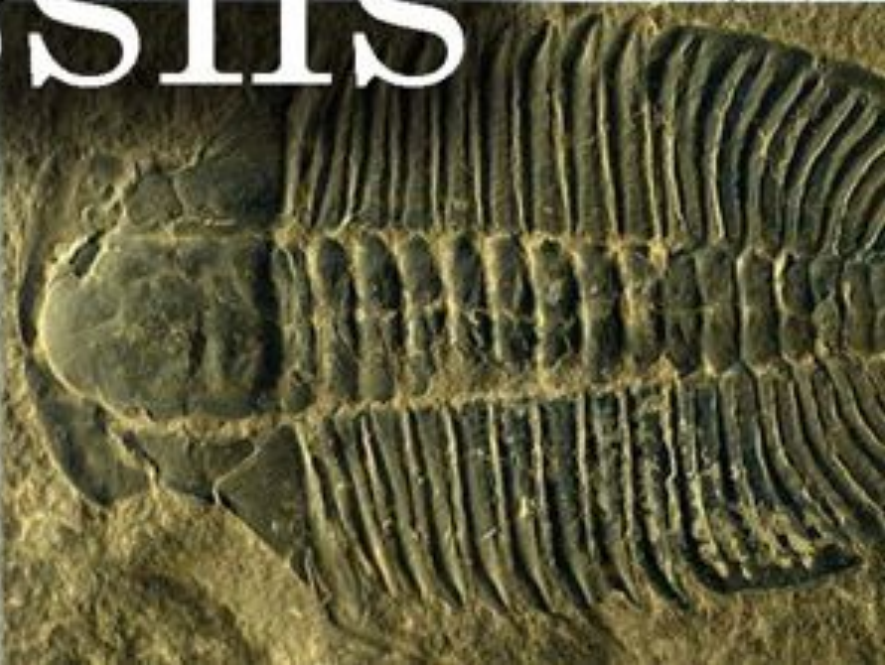




# Fossils



# Learning Objectives

- Describe the fossil record
- Describe the information that relative dating and radioactive dating provide about fossils

# Paleontologists



**Paleontologists** - Scientists who study fossils

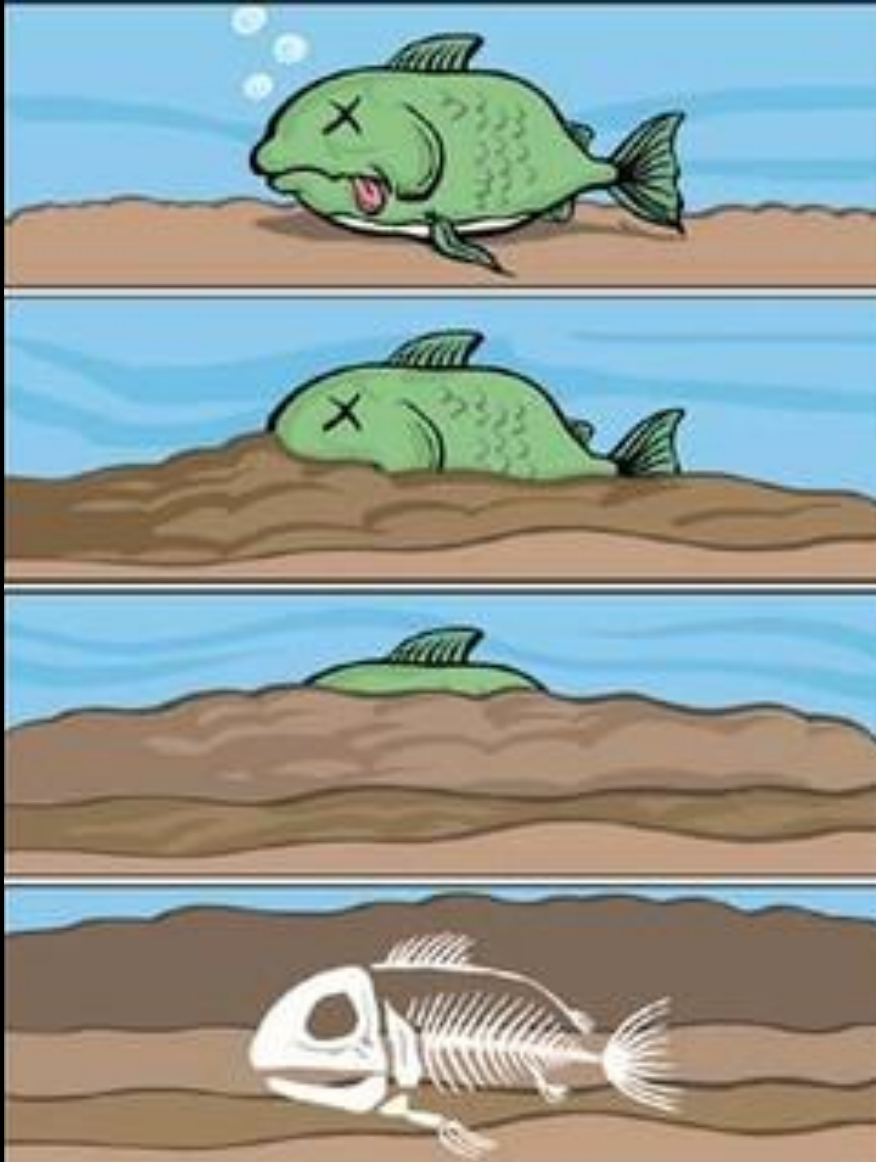
# Fossil Record

The **fossil record** provides evidence about the history of life on Earth.



Shows how species have changed over time

# How Fossils Form



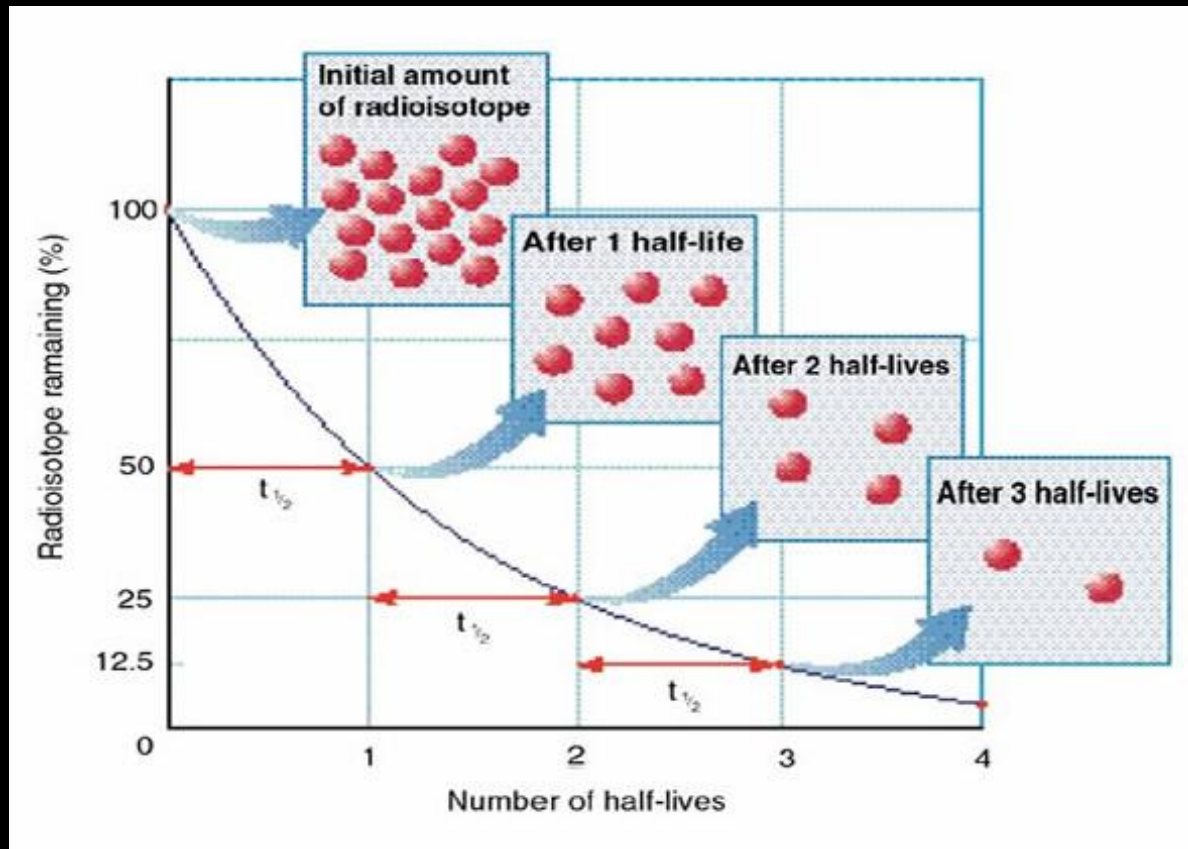
1. Organism dies
2. Sedimentary rock builds upon the dead organism
3. Weight of sediment layer compresses the lower layer and along with chemical activity, turns the organism into rock

# Relative Dating



The age of the fossil is determined by comparing its placement with that of fossils in other layers of rock

# Radioactive (Absolute) Dating



**Half-life:**  
Length of time it takes for half of the radioactive atoms to decay

The age of a sample is based on the amount of remaining radioactive isotope it contains

# Radiocarbon Dating Instant Egghead





# Stop Here

