

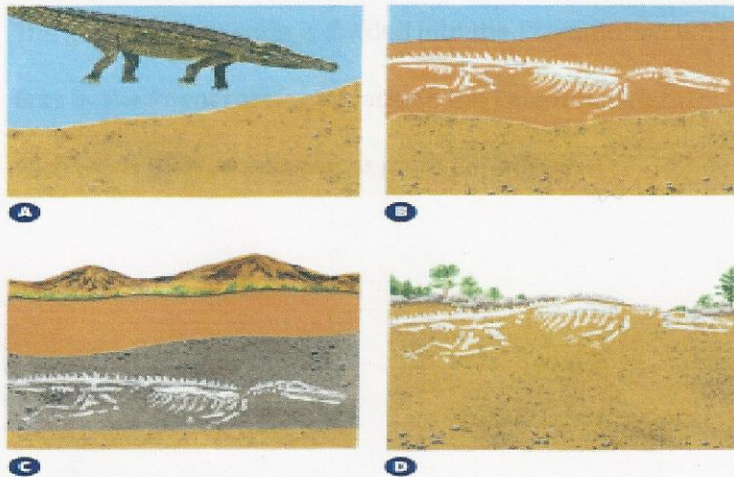
Biology Chapter 14 Section 1 Student Notes

Fossil Formation

- Nearly all fossils are formed in sedimentary rock.
- The sediments build up until they cover the organism's remains.
- Minerals replace the organic matter or fill the empty pore spaces of the organism.

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The Fossilization Process



Dating fossils

- Relative dating is a method used to determine the age of rocks by comparing them with those in other layers.



Radiometric Dating

- Uses the decay of radioactive isotopes to measure the age of a rock
- Radioactive isotopes that can be used for radiometric dating are found only in igneous or metamorphic rocks.

The Geologic Time Scale

- The geological time scale is a model that expresses the major geological and biological events in Earth's history.
- The geologic time scale is divided into the Precambrian time and the Phanerozoic eon.
- Eras of the Phanerozoic eon include the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras.
- Each era is divided into one or more periods.