

Name: _____

Content Check

Read and answer the questions below.

1. Circle the correct word to complete the following sentence:

The geologic time scale of the Grand Canyon starts at the _____ of the canyon 180 million years ago.

top

bottom

2. Describe how the age of the rock strata changes as you hike down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

3. Explain where you would find the oldest fossils in the rock strata of the Grand Canyon and why you would find them there.

Content Check

Teacher Key

1. Circle the correct word to complete the following sentence:

The geologic time scale of the Grand Canyon starts at the bottom of the canyon 180 million years ago.

2. Describe how the age of the rock strata changes as you hike down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

As you hike to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, the layers of the rock strata get older and older.

3. Explain where you would find the oldest fossils in the rock strata of the Grand Canyon and why you would find them there.

The oldest fossils will be found in the lowest, oldest layers of the rock strata. The oldest fossils are from animals that lived long ago when these rock layers were being formed. As more recent animals have died, they have piled on top of the previous layers.