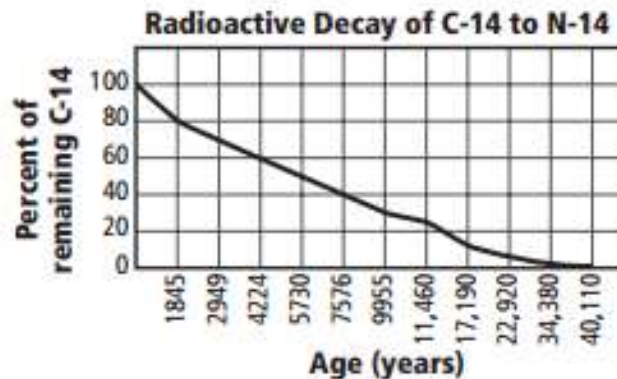


Fossil Dating Worksheet

1. How do scientists determine the **relative age** of a fossil – by looking at rock layers, or measuring radioactivity?
2. How do scientists determine the **absolute age** of a fossil – by looking at rock layers, or measuring radioactivity?
3. Explain the **difference** between **relative** and **absolute** ages.

4. **According to the graph**, what happens to the radioactivity of a fossil as it gets older?
5. **According to the graph**, how old is a fossil if it only has 50% of its C-14 remaining?

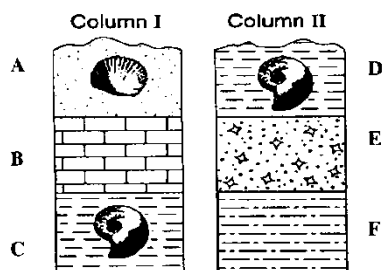
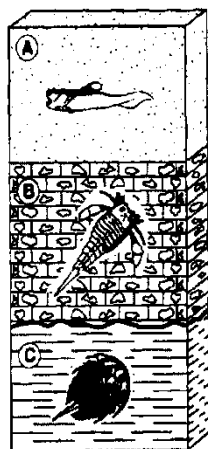


Fossil	C-14 Remaining
A	25%
B	75%
C	12.5%

6. Three fossils have been discovered. Their C-14 levels are summarized in the **chart at left**. Rank them in order of **youngest to oldest**.

7. Using the diagram at right, which fossil (A, B or C) is the **oldest**?

Why?



8. Refer to the diagram above, which shows two columns of rock taken from two different locations. Which layer would have:
 - a. the same radioactivity level as C?
 - b. the most radioactivity?
 - c. the least radioactivity