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Earth's History

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| **Across**  **2.** idea that geologic processes that occurred in the past can be explained by current geologic processes.  **12.** very long period of time the Earth has existed.  **13.** remains or traces (whole or part) of past plant and animal life that has been preserved in sedimentary rock.  **14.** fossilized mark that formed in sedimentary rock by the movement of an animal on or within soft sediment.  **17.** stable element into which a radioactive element breaks down.  **18.** layers of sedimentary rocks.  **19.** atom of a substance that has the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons as another atom of the same substance.  **20.** ordered arrangement of rock layers that is based on the relative ages of the rocks and in which the oldest rocks are at the bottom. | **Down**  **1.** historical sequence of life indicated by fossils found in layers of Earth's crust.  **3.** permanent disappearance of a species.  **4.** process in which a radioactive isotope tends to break down into a stable isotope of the same element or another element.  **5.** A break in the geologic record created when rock layers are eroded or when sediment is not deposited for a long period of time.  **6.** method of determining the absolute age of an object by comparing the relative percentages of a radioactive parent isotope and a stable daughter isotope.  **7.** fossil that is used to establish the age of a rock layer because the fossil is distinct, abundant, and widespread and the species that formed the fossil existed for only a short span of geologic time.  **8.** states that in layers of sedimentary rocks, younger rocks normally lie on top of older rocks if the layers have not been disturbed.  **9.** Any method of measuring the age of an event or object in years.  **10.** Any method of determining whether an event or object is older or younger than other events or objects.  **11.** process by which a unstable nucleus gives off nuclear radiation.  **15.** amount of time required for half of an original sample of radioactive material to decay or undergo radioactive transformation.  **16.** igneous rock formed when magma forces its way into sedimentary rock and hardens below or on the Earth's surface. |