

M O D E R N E A R T H S C I E N C E

Section 18.1

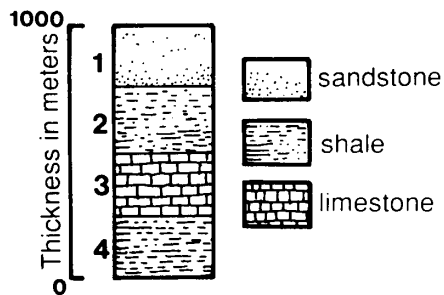
The Geologic Time Scale

Read each statement below. If the statement is true, write *T* in the space provided. If the statement is false, write *F* in the space provided.

- _____ 1. Scientists use events such as major changes in the earth's surface and climate and the extinction of various species as the basis for dividing the geologic time scale into units.
- _____ 2. Using the law of superposition and the study of index fossils, nineteenth-century scientists determined the relative ages of rock layers.
- _____ 3. Eras are subdivisions of periods.
- _____ 4. Scientists can use the geologic column to estimate the relative ages of rock layers only if the rock contains radioactive minerals.
- _____ 5. Fossils of mammals are common in Cenozoic rocks.

Complete each statement by writing the correct term or phrase in the space provided.

6. Rock layers in the geologic column can be distinguished from one another according to rock type and _____ .
7. The geologic era that followed Precambrian time is called the _____ .



8. According to the geologic column in the diagram, the oldest rock layer is _____ .
9. Based on late Precambrian fossils and other types of geologic evidence, scientists theorize that life began _____ .
10. The era that is divided into epochs is the _____ .