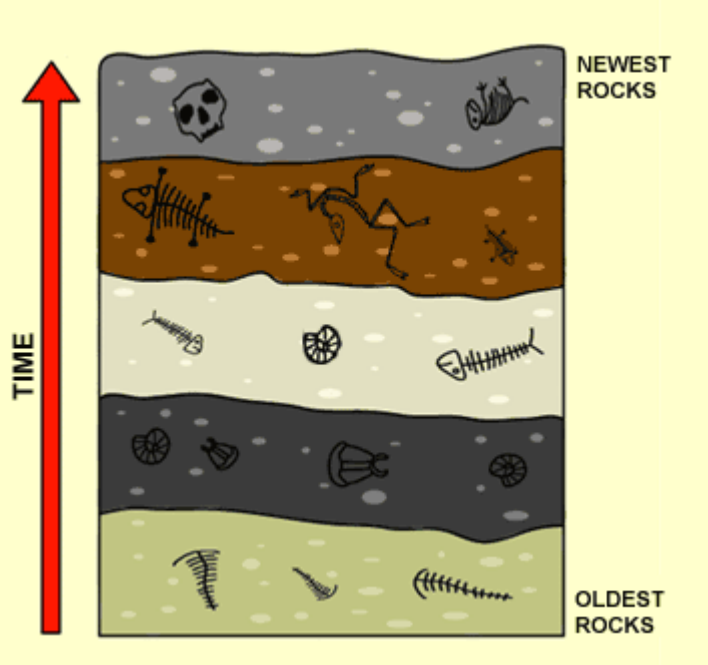
Fossils

Fossils show creatures and plants that lived long ago.

They can be formed in several ways:

- Dead creatures and plants are buried in sediment. As they rot, the gap they leave gets filled by material that turns into rock (**permineralisation).**
- Creatures and plants absorb minerals like silica and turn to stone (**petrification).**
- Marks and impressions are left in rock (**imprints**)
- Creatures get stuck in **amber** which fossilises.

Sedimentary rocks are laid down in strata.



Older rocks and fossils of older animals are often at the bottom, and newer rocks and fossils of more recent animals at the top.

Tree trunk fossils can sometimes be found in more than one stratum. This shows that strata can be laid down very quickly.