Geologic Time

Dating an object

Dating the Earth

- Relative Dating
  - identifying older or younger objects by comparing to age of known object
  - you and your grandma

Dating the Earth

- Relative Dating
  - Fossils that are lower in the crust are older
  - The same fossils found in different types of rocks, tell rock made at same time

Dating the Earth

- Strata
  - Horizontal layer of rock
    - All same type of rock
    - Fossils in strata made at same time
- Once a fossil no longer shows up in rock...species extinct, not come back

Dating the Earth

- Absolute Dating
  - method of measuring age in years
  - Uses atoms to identify life span
- Radioactive Decay
  - Unstable isotope (atom) breaks down to stable isotpe

Dating the Earth

- Radiometric Dating
  - Finding age of object by measuring amount unstable isotope.
- Half-life
  - time it takes for half of unstable isotope to decay.