	Earth Science	Name:			
	LAB #24: CORRELATING ROCK LAYERS		Date: _		
Correla	ting Rock Layers			Lab #24	

**Discussion**: It is relatively easy to determine relative ages of rock layers in a single formation. We have learned that when rock layers are in different locations, correlating the layers is much more tentative. We have also learned that the presence of index fossils makes it much easier to correlate rock layers that are separated by distance.

Relative age		 	
Absolute age	 	 	
Correlation			
Rock outcrop			
Unconformity	 		
Superposition			

**<u>Objectives</u>**: Use index fossils to correlate rock layers from different locations. Use index fossils to determine the absolute age of a rock layer.

**Purpose**: Use index fossils to date and correlate rock layers.

- **<u>Hypothesis</u>**: Some fossils occur in widespread areas and existed only for short time periods. These fossils can be used to date rock layers.
- **Theory**: Index fossils are found over large geographic areas of the planet in rock layers of the same age because the living things that made the fossils only existed on Earth for a relatively short time period.

## <u>Materials</u>:

PS/ESRT.

## Method:

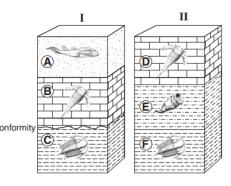
Part A:	Using the following diagram, match the index fossils to
determ	nine the total number of rock layers represented by the two
sites.	

Which layers are the same age?

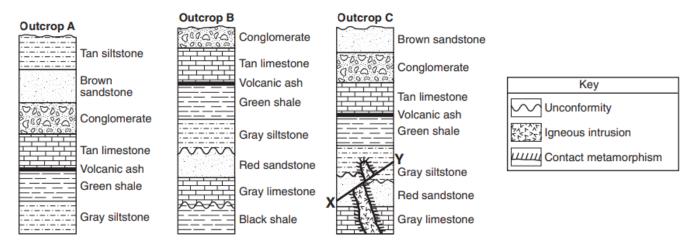
Which layers have been eroded away? \_\_\_\_\_ Unconformity

Which rock layer is the oldest?

Which rock layer is the youngest?



**<u>Part B</u>**: Here are three rock outcroppings from three different locations fairly near one another.



- 1. Correlate rock layers that are the same age by drawing lines to connect the bottoms of layers that are the same age. Be sure to use wavy lines to connect nonconformities.
- 2. Reconstruct the complete sequence in the column to the right.

