Name _____

Date _____

Lesson Quick Study

Lesson 1 - What Do Fossils Show About Earth's History?

1. Inquiry Skill Practice–Infer

When you infer, you use logical reasoning to draw conclusions.

Scientists have found fossils of ocean animals on the tops of mountains. What can they infer from this observation?

The area was once covered by water.

2. Use Vocabulary

Write a complete sentence for each of the following terms:

fossil:

I saw a fossil of an extinct bird at the museum.

index fossil:

Index fossils help scientists match rocks of the same age in different places.

3. Focus Skill Reading Skill Practice–Sequence

Put the following events about trace fossils in the correct sequence. Number the steps 1 to 5.

2 The saber-toothed cat makes tracks near the watering hole.

5 Scientists discover the trace fossils of a saber-toothed cat.

1 A thirsty saber-toothed cat awakes from a nap.

4 As millions of years pass, the mud turns to rock.

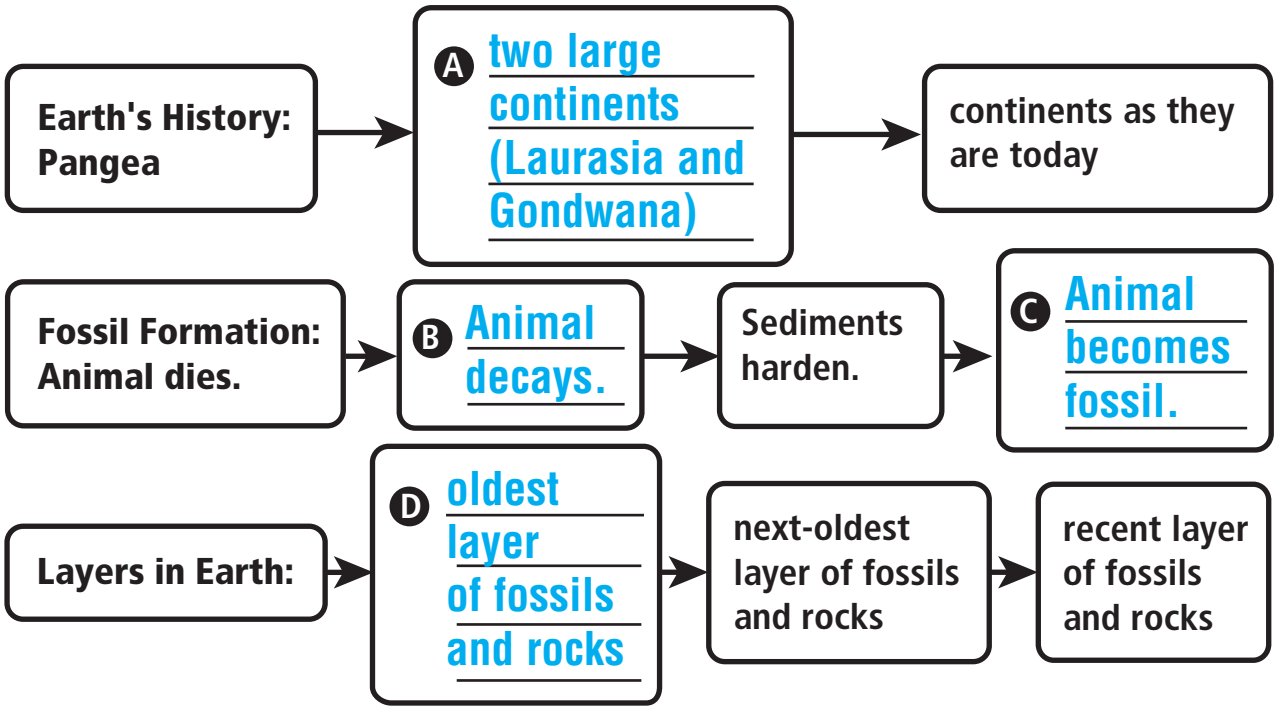
3 The saber-toothed cat's footprints harden in the mud.

© Harcourt

Name _____

4. Focus Skill **Sequence**

Complete the graphic organizer below.



5. **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**

Which animal would be more likely to leave fossil remains: a jellyfish, a moth, or a fox? Explain your answer.

A fox would be more likely to leave fossil remains because it has more hard body parts. It has a backbone and other large bones. It also has teeth.

Suppose you are on a dig and discover a fossil of the intact remains of an ancient sea scorpion. Why would this complete and undamaged fossil be considered an unusual discovery?

Possible answer: Entire fossils of animals that become fossils are rare. Time, other animals, and weathering usually destroy portions, leaving behind incomplete remains.

© Harcourt