Introduction to Relative Dating

What is Relative Dating?

**Absolute** Dating

- Determining the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of an event  
 (i.e. when it took place).

**Relative** Dating:

- Determining the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a series of events.

(what happened first, second, third, etc.)

- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Definitions:**

(plural: )

- A section of sedimentary rock that is the *same throughout*.

(e.g. a layer of sandstone).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
 - A piece of older stratum embedded in a younger stratum.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

- The boundary between neighboring strata.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

- A missing amount of strata in a cross-section. Due to…

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Types of Unconformity**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
   Non-parallel layers above/below a contact
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
   An erosional surface cut into a pluton
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
   Missing material between parallel layers.  
   Hard to detect – need to check for missing fossils.

**Principle of Original Horizontality**

**Principle of Superposition**

**Principle of Cross-cutting**

**Principle of Inclusion**