

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

Cambrian period time span from 542 million years ago to 488 million years ago, marked by the appearance of complex life-forms

fossil preserved remains or evidence of a past living organism

geologic time scale visual record of Earth's history, with the individual units based on changes in the rocks and fossils

half-life time required for half of the amount of a radioactive parent element to decay into a stable daughter element

principle of superposition states that in rock layers that have not been folded or deformed, the oldest rock layers are on the bottom; gives the relative age of rock layers

radioactive decay process by which one element naturally changes into another

Lesson 2

Archean eon time span from 4 to 2.5 billion years ago, during which Earth had its first solid surface

Hadean eon time span covering the first 640 million years of Earth's history

occur to come into being; as an event, to come to pass

Great Oxygenation Event rise of atmospheric oxygen during the Proterozoic eon, harming organisms that had evolved in an oxygen-poor environment

Proterozoic eon time span from 2.5 to 0.542 billion years ago, during which large landmasses formed on Earth

protocontinents small landmasses that formed on Earth during the Archean eon

salt ionic crystalline compound

thermal energy moves from one place to another because of differences in temperature

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 3

adaptation characteristic that species develop over time that helps them survive in a particular environment

extinct no longer alive; occurs when all individuals of a species are dead

Phanerozoic eon time span from 542 million years ago to the present, marked by the appearance of larger, more complex organisms

trilobite extinct marine arthropod characterized by a three-lobed body