Rocks, Fossils, and Time

Grade 4 Science Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

1. A claim says, "Rock layers cannot show what a place was like long ago." Which observation weakens this claim?
   some rock layers are much harder than others
   rock layers in one cliff can be many different colors
   rock layers can be very thick or very thin
   a layer with coral fossils shows a warm sea was once there

2. A layer of coal is found between two layers of sandstone. Coal forms from swamp plants. Which claim is best supported?
   the area was always a swamp
   the coal formed before the bottom sandstone
   a swamp once existed between two sandy times
   the sandstone formed from swamp plants

3. Scientists find a fossil of a whale far inland. Which claim is best supported?
   the whale was carried there by a river
   the land has always been far from the ocean
   the land was once covered by ocean
   whales once walked on dry land like today's deer

4. Two cliffs far apart have the same three layers in the same order. Each middle layer has the same fossils. What does this suggest?
   the layers formed at the same time
   the fossils moved between cliffs
   the cliffs are the same height
   the layers formed in different orders

5. Which evidence would show that a cliff's layers were flipped over by Earth movements?
   the cliff has many colors
   the top layer is thinner than the bottom
   the cliff has many cracks
   older fossils are found in the top layer

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Science Worksheet

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