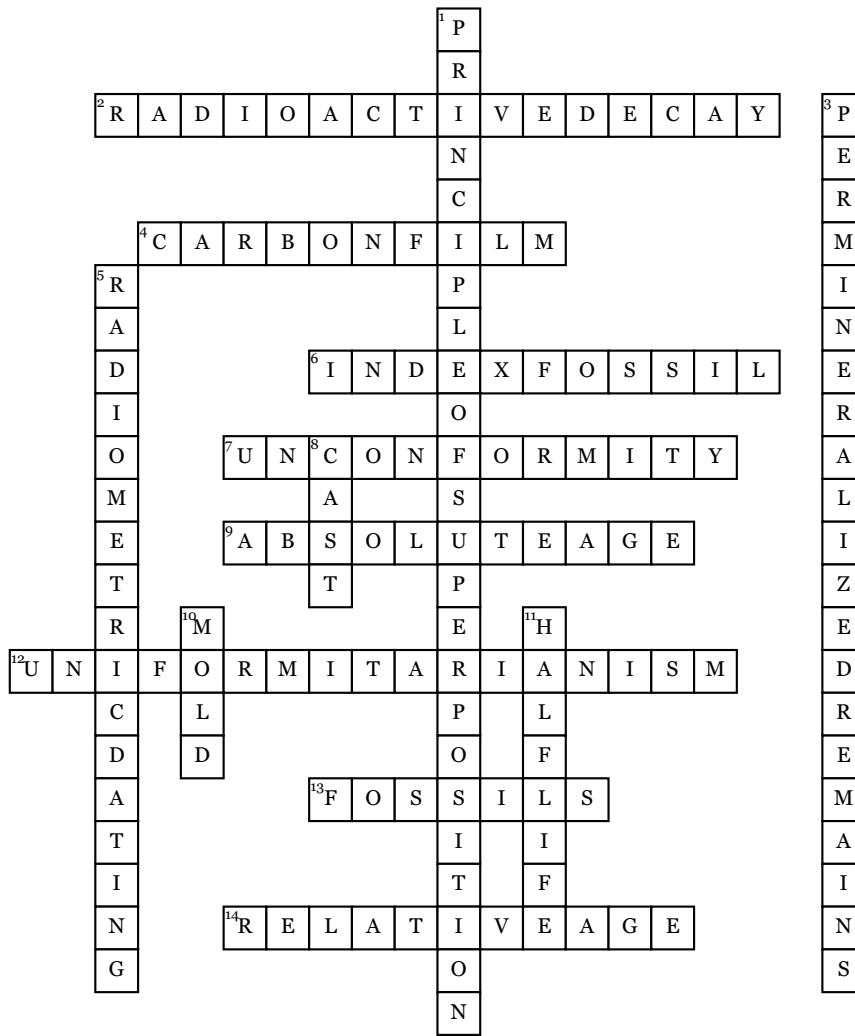


# Clues to Earth's Past



## Across

**2.** Release of nuclear particles and energy from unstable atomic nuclei.

**4.** Thin film of carbon residue preserved as a fossil.

**6.** Remains of species that existed on Earth.

**7.** Gap in the rock layer that is due to erosion or periods without any deposition.

**9.** Age, in years, of a rock or other object; can be determined by using properties of the atoms that make up materials.

**12.** Principle stating that Earth processes occurring today are similar to those that occurred in the past.

**13.** Remains, imprints, or traces of prehistoric organisms that can tell when and where organisms once lived and how they lived.

**14.** The age of something compared with other things.

## Down

**1.** States that in undisturbed rock layers.

**3.** Fossils in which the spaces inside are filled with minerals from groundwater.

**5.** Process used to calculate the absolute age of rock by measuring the ratio of parent isotope to daughter product in a mineral and knowing the half-life of the parent.

**8.** A type of body fossil that forms when crystals fill a mold or sediments wash into a mold and harden into a rock.

**10.** A type of body fossil that forms in rock when an organism with hard parts is buried.

**11.** Time needed for one half of the mass of a sample of a radioactive isotope to decay.

## Word Bank

Permineralized remains

Relative age

Half-life

Absolute age

Radioactive decay

Uniformitarianism

Radiometric dating

Unconformity

Carbon film

Fossils

Principle of Superposition

Cast

Mold

Index fossil