

RELATIVE AGES OF ROCKS

Principles

Principle of original horizontality

Sedimentary strata are horizontal, or nearly so, when deposited. Strata that are not horizontal have been deformed by movements of the earth's crust.

Principle of superposition

In any section of undisturbed sedimentary strata the oldest stratum is at the base and the youngest is at the top. The order of deposition is from the bottom upward.

Principle of cross-cutting relationships

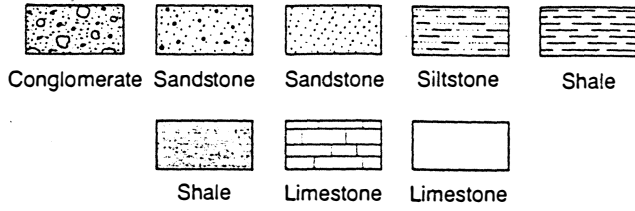
A rock body (or feature) that cuts across another rock body (or feature) is the younger of the two.

Principle of inclusion

A rock body that contains inclusions (unmelted fragments, boulders, etc.) of pre-existing rock is younger than the rocks from which the inclusions were derived.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Sedimentary rocks



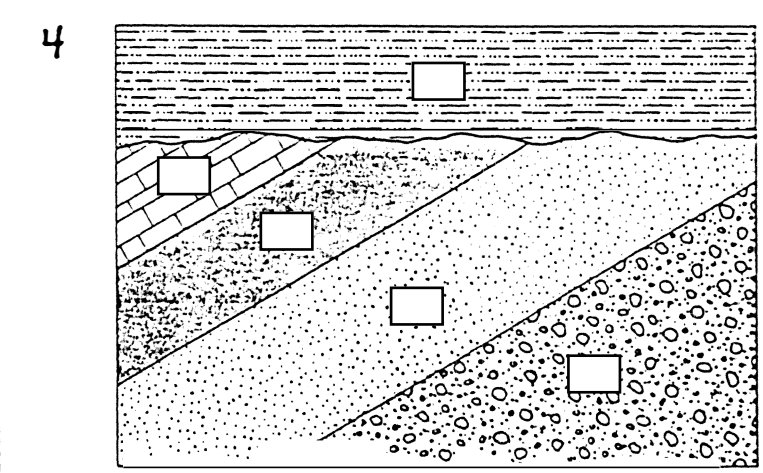
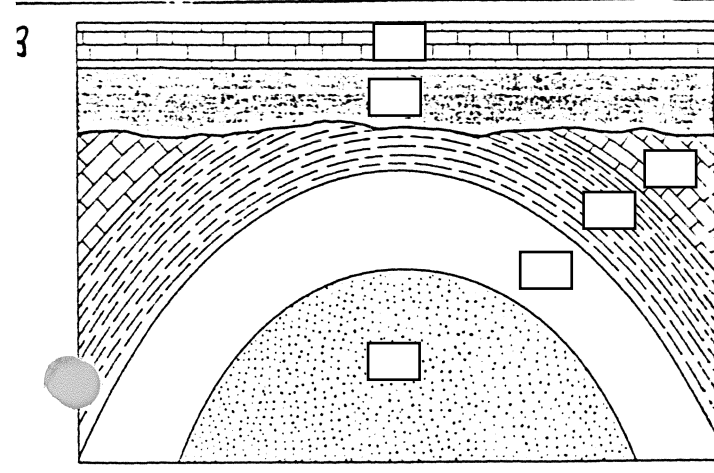
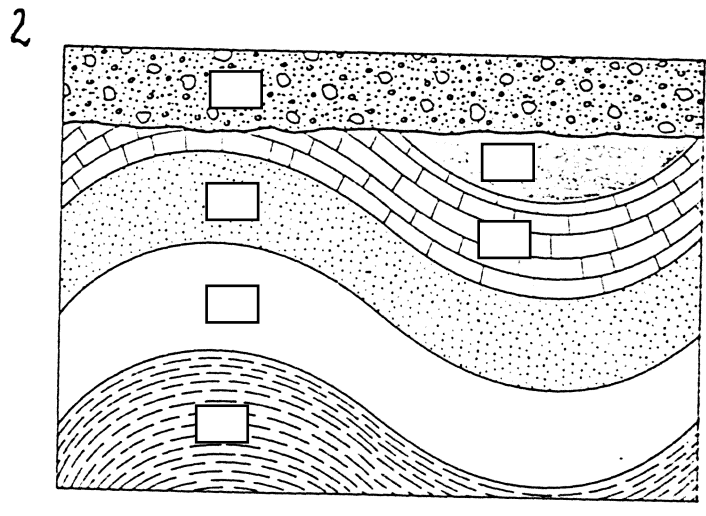
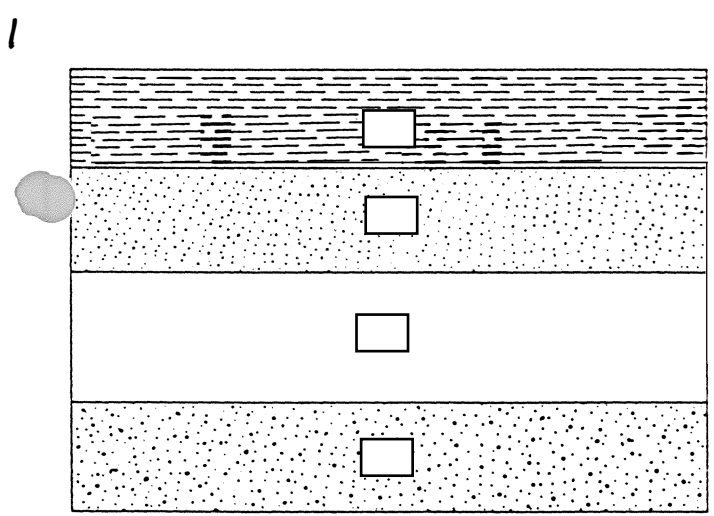
Igneous rocks



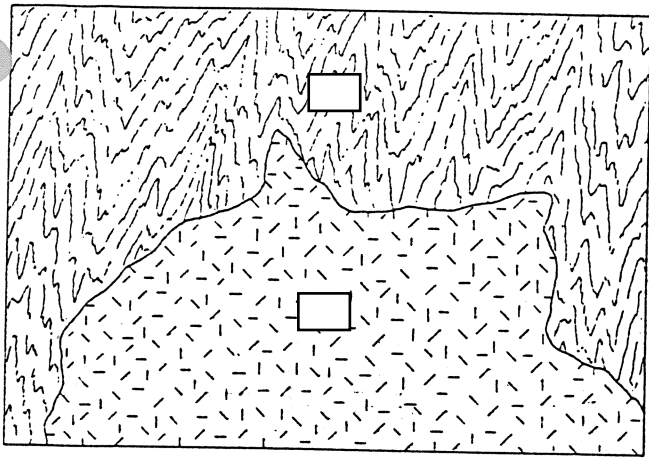
Metamorphic rocks



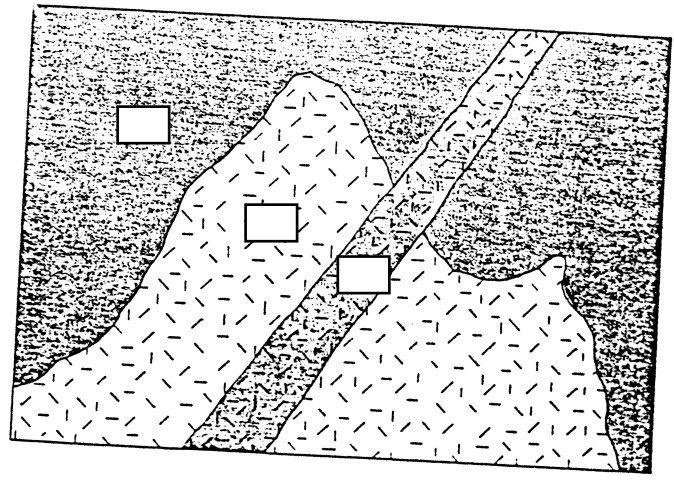
Other features



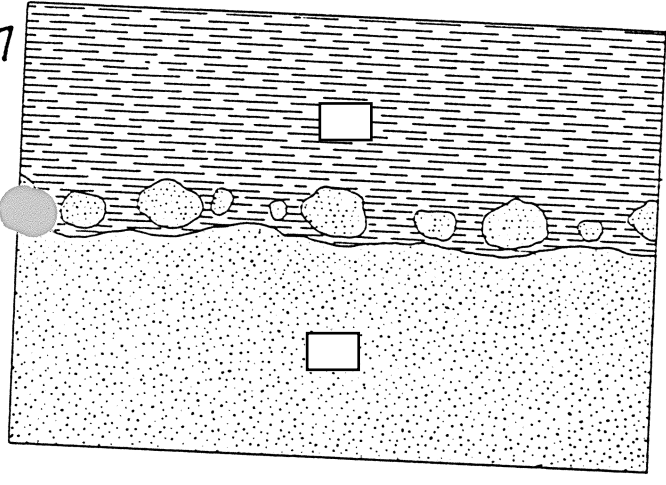
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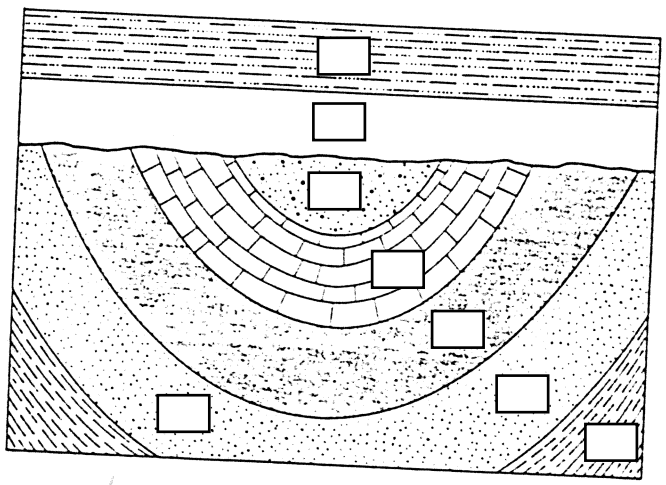
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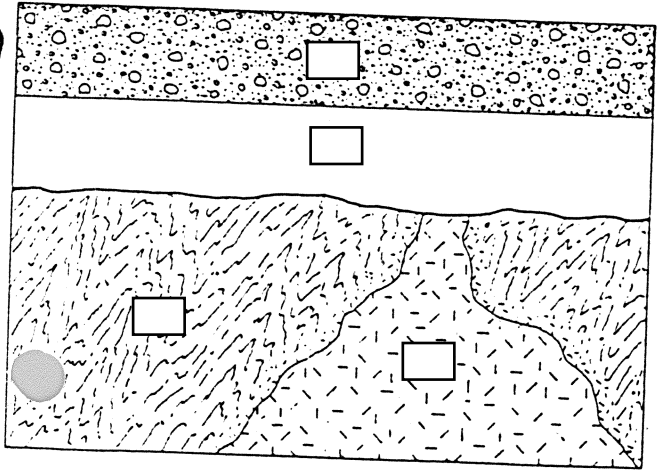
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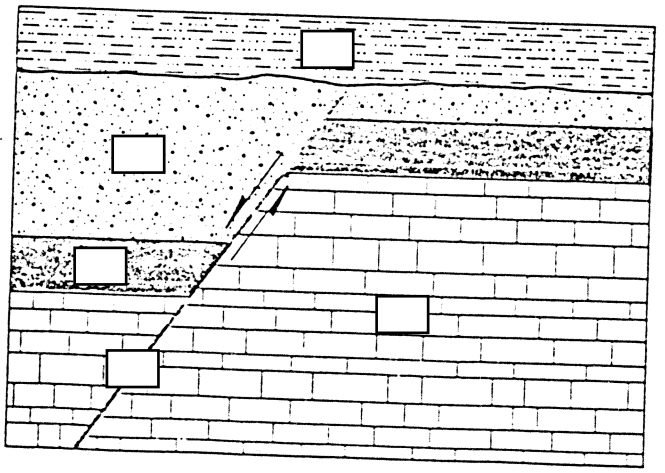
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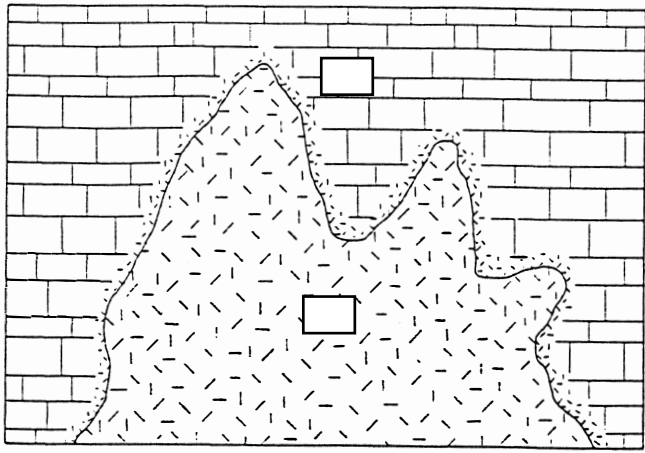


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