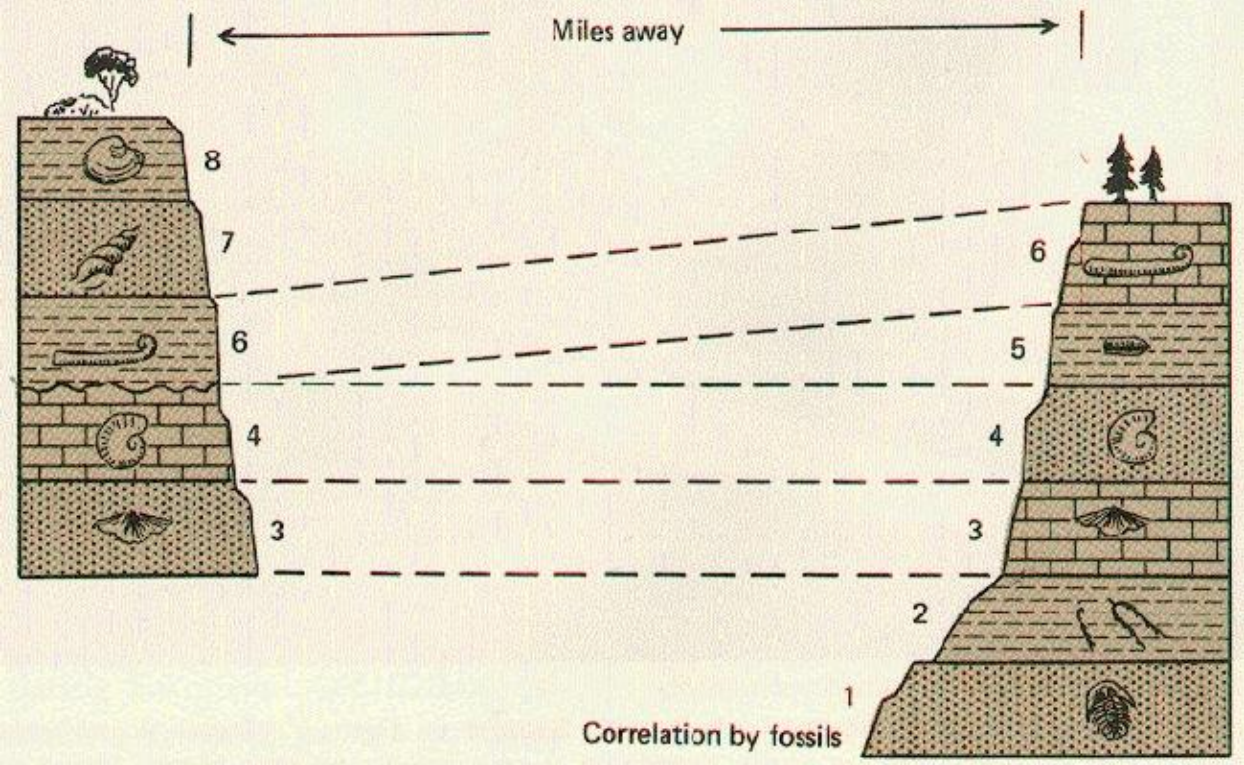
Correlation: showing that 2 rocks are time equivalent (deposited at the same time)

- Traced laterally between 2 columns if they are close enough
- Similarity of rock types in a sequence.
- **Key beds**: a distinct layer such as ash/coal that can be traced over long distances.
    - Used to reference since these layers usually have a date assigned to them.
- **K-T Boundary:** the distinct layer found globally between the Cretaceous period and the Tertiary period.
- **Fossils:** Particularly index fossils. (Biostratigraphic correlation)



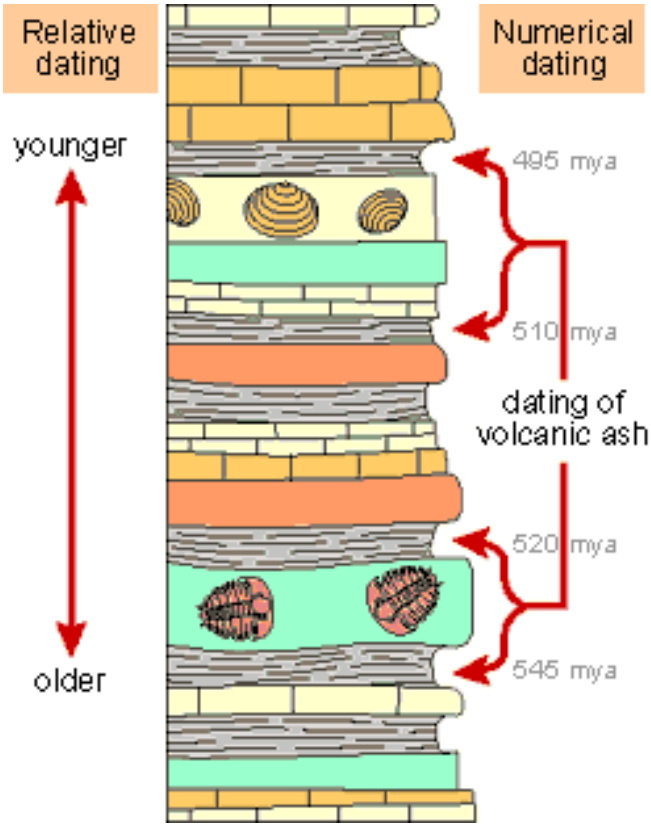
http://www.geology.ohio-state.edu/~vonfrese/gs100/lect29/xfig29_04.jpg

Relative age Vs. Absolute age

- **Relative:** period of time
- **Absolute:** exact date by year number

Radioactive decay: spontaneous transformation from an unstable isotope of an element to a stable isotope of the same element or another

- Unstable = radioactive
- through radioactive decay one unstable isotope becomes another atom that is stable, it changes to a different atom.
- Parent isotope changes to daughter isotope, parent→daughter
- Half-life: rate of decay,
    - After a given period of time, half of the parent isotopes will become daughter isotopes.



http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evosite/lines/images/strat_column.gif