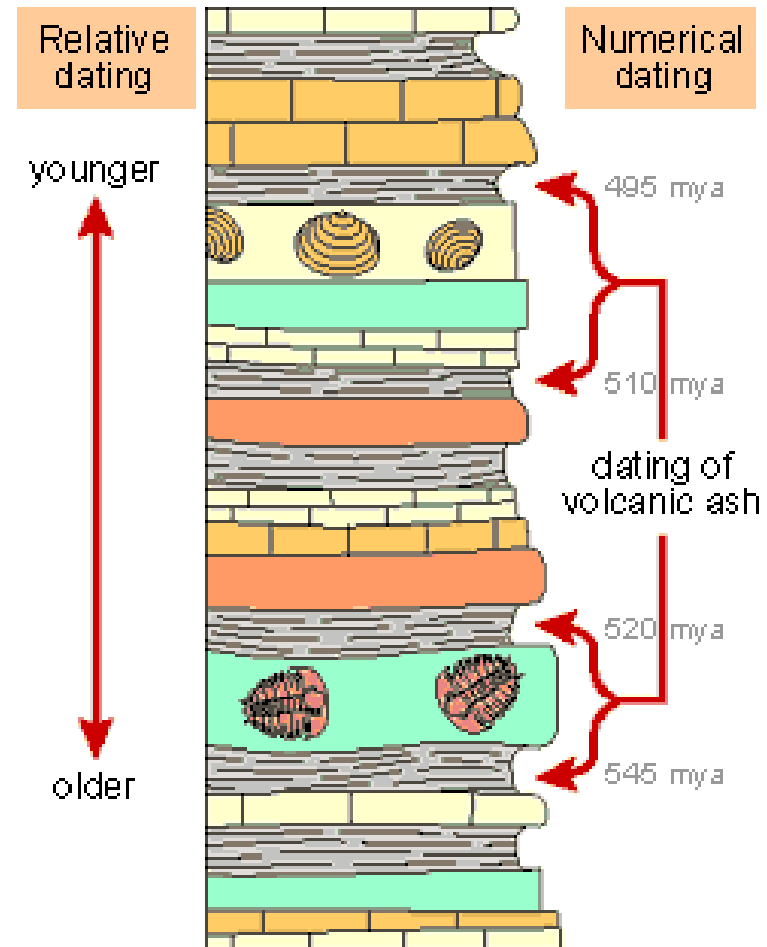


# Earth History

One For the Ages!!!!

# Relative vs. Absolute Dating

- **RELATIVE DATING**  
in which two or more events are compared without any numerical reference.
- **ABSOLUTE DATING**  
in which time is measured in some unit (seconds, minutes, hours or years)



# What Are Fossils??

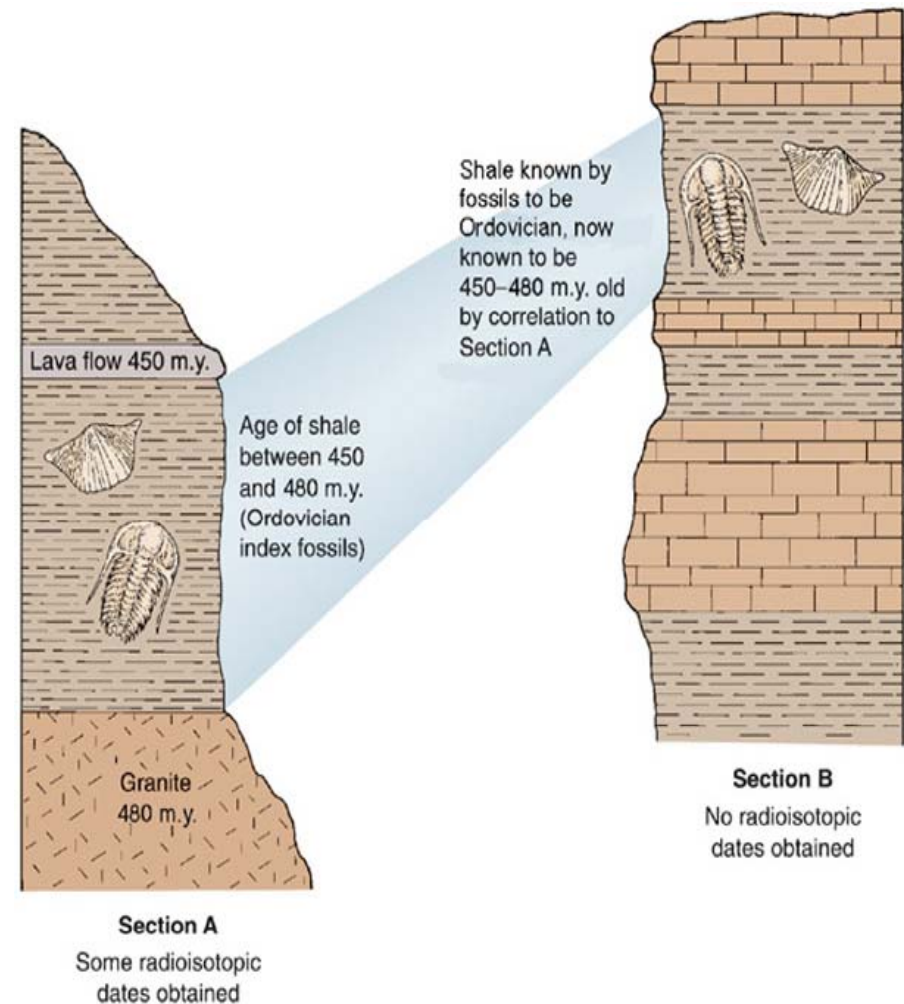
- From the Latin word *fossus*, which means "having been dug up"
- Any remains or imprint of a living organism that has been preserved within the Earth's crust.

# Then and Now!



# What Can Fossils Tell Us?

- The relative age of the rock layers.
- Can be use to correlate separate rock layers.
- Correlation is the matching of similar rock layers in different locations.
- Fossils use for correlation are called Index Fossils!



# What Makes A Fossil an Index Fossil?

- Should They Be:
  - Sparse or **Abundant**?
  - **Widespread** or Localized?
  - Long or **Short** Lifespan?
  - Common or **Unique** Characteristics?

# Key Beds

- Well defined, easily identifiable rock layers that have distinct characteristics that allows them to be used in correlation.



Alaska



Nebraska