Name: _____

Date: _____

Digging through the Column

Thickness of layer	Type and number of fossils
Top	
Bottom	

1. What observations can be made about the column? _____

_____

_____

_____

2. What observations can be made about where the fossils are found in the column? _____

_____

_____

_____

3. Which fossils were found in all layers, which were found on only one layer? _____

_____

_____

_____

4. What similarities and differences are there between each groups outcrop column? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

5. What conclusions can you make about outcrop columns? _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Organizing the Layers

1. How many layers are found in this part of the geologic column?

   _____

2. Which is the oldest layer in your column? Which rock layer is the youngest? Describe these layers in terms of rock type and the fossils they contain.

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. Which (if any) fossils can be used as index fossils for a single layer? Which layer or layers contain each of these fossils? Why are these fossils considered index fossils?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. Fossils may also be used to distinguish similar layers from one another. Name two layers in your column that are distinguished only by the fossils they contain. Which fossil(s) identifies each layer?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. List the fossils in your column from oldest to youngest; label the oldest and youngest fossils

Oldest							youngest

6. Look at the unconformities in the sections for Outcrops 3 and 4. Which rock layers are partially or completely missing from each section? Explain how you know this.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____