

## **Making a fossil sequence**

*The purpose of this exercise is for the students to build up a sequence of zone fossils from several separate outcrops.*

*The letters represent zone fossils. Each vertical group of letters are those found in a single outcrop of horizontal or gently dipping strata.*

*Photocopy one sheet for each student or pair. It is best if each sheet is a different colour paper. Then cut each sheet in turn into columns and then cut out the blank spaces and discard them.*

*Now each piece of paper represents an outcrop and the sequence of fossils found in it. Put the pieces into an envelope. If you have used only white paper you should number each piece of each so that each piece can be matched to its correct set should it get muddled with another set.*

*Students take the pieces out of the envelope and arrange them on the desk so that pieces with the same letter (zone fossil) are on a line. Like this:*

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R
I      I
      X
      T      T
                P

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*They then write down the complete sequence of fossil zones. In this case, oldest to youngest, PTXIR.*

*It is easiest to check that the students have the correct sequence if it makes up a word or words. The first example is STRATIGRAPHY and the second is AGEDETERMINATION*

*Making a fossil sequence 1*

<i>S</i>	<i>R<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>T<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>I</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>P</i>
<i>T<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>A<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>I</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>R<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>H</i>
<i>R<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>T<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>G</i>	<i>R<sub>1</sub></i>		<i>Y</i>
			<i>A<sub>1</sub></i>		
			<i>P</i>		

*Making a fossil sequence 2*

<i>A<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>D</i>	<i>T<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>E<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>I<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>A<sub>1</sub></i>
<i>G</i>	<i>E<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>E<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>R</i>	<i>N<sub>2</sub></i>	<i>T<sub>1</sub></i>
<i>E<sub>3</sub></i>	<i>T<sub>2</sub></i>		<i>M</i>	<i>A<sub>1</sub></i>	<i>I<sub>1</sub></i>
<i>D</i>			<i>I<sub>2</sub></i>		<i>O</i>
	<i>M</i>				<i>N<sub>1</sub></i>
<i>R</i>	<i>I<sub>2</sub></i>				
<i>M</i>	<i>N<sub>2</sub></i>				

