



Geologists can tell which rock layer is older based on their position in the stack of layers

Superposition

When geologists study rocks, they can tell which layer is older or younger by looking at how they're stacked on top of each other. The oldest layer is always at the bottom, and the youngest layer is at the top. This is called superposition. Geologists use the positions of the layers to describe the history of an area.

But forces like earthquakes and volcanoes can cause layers to shift around or even break apart. This can change their original order. That's when geologists need to use other clues, like the direction of the folds in the rock. It's like solving a puzzle to understand the story of the rocks and the earth's history.