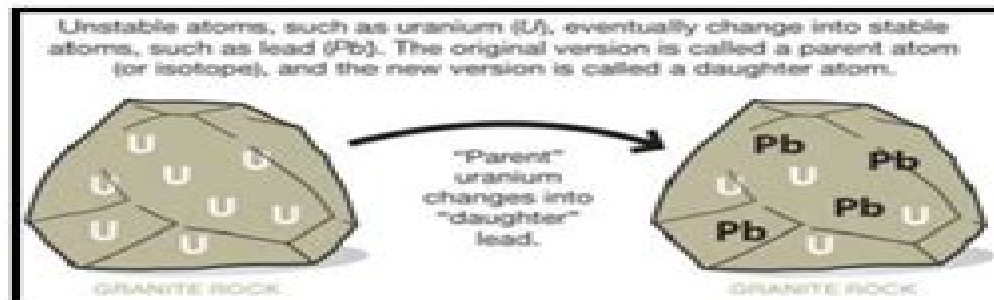
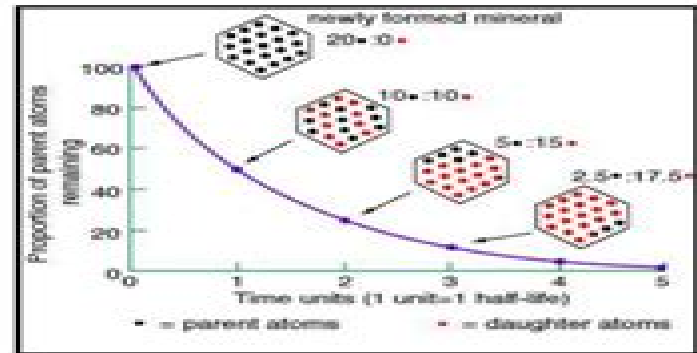


Absolute Age and the Radioactive Dating of Rocks

Rocks are a form of matter. All the matter you see, including rocks, is made of tiny particles called atoms. When all the atoms of a particular type of matter are the same, the matter is an element.

Most elements are **stable**. They do not change under normal conditions. But some elements exist in forms that are **unstable**. Over time, these elements break down, or decay, by releasing particles and energy in a process called **radioactive decay**. These unstable elements are said to be **radioactive**.

During radioactive decay, the atoms of one element break down to form atoms of another element. Radioactive elements occur naturally in igneous rocks (rocks formed from magma). For an igneous rock, its "birthday" is when it first hardens to become rock. As a radioactive element within the igneous rock decays, it changes into another element. Therefore, the composition of the rock changes slowly over time. The amount of the radioactive element (parent) goes down. But the amount of the new element (daughter) goes up. The rate of decay of each radioactive element is constant; it never changes. This rate of decay is the element's half-life. The half-life of a radioactive element is the time it takes for half of the radioactive atoms (parent) to decay, or change into a stable element (daughter). Scientists use this rate of decay to calculate a rock's age.



Geologists use radioactive dating to determine the **absolute age** of rocks. *The absolute age of a rock is its age in numbers of years.* In radioactive dating, scientists first determine the amount of a radioactive element in a rock. Then they compare that amount with

the amount of the stable element into which the radioactive element decays. So if a rock has 50% parent element X and 50% daughter element Z, and the half life of the X is 100 years, the rock would be 100 years old. If it was 25 % X and 75% Z that means it went through 2 half lives and is 200 years old.

Radioactive Dating Of Rocks Answers

Michael J. Findley, Mary C. Findley



Radioactive Dating Of Rocks Answers:

The Handy Geology Answer Book Patricia Barnes-Svarney, Thomas E Svarney, 2004-02-01 Answers hundreds of questions on the most interesting of topics planet Earth It s right under our feet every day Earth and all its glorious components From fossils rocks and minerals to caves earthquakes and volcanic eruptions The Handy Geology Answer Book traces the formation of the universe and the planet investigating the layers of the planet and explaining the formation of mountains and bodies of water Questions and answers are also devoted to physical and chemical processes fossil fuels the effects of global warming on glaciers world morphological features and even the geology of other planets It answers nearly 1 000 of the most frequently asked questions on the complexities that shaped our planet It is also a trivia buff s delight with the stats for Earth s deepest the Mariana the deepest known ocean trench lowest the shoreline of the Dead Sea highest Mt Everest the longest river the Nile and the largest freshwater lake Lake Superior along with the how and why of these features Easy to understand and use The Handy Geology Answer Book is invaluable for students and general science readers of all ages With numerous photos and illustrations this informative book also includes a resource section on educational places government organizations and other references a helpful bibliography an extensive index and a glossary of terms adding to its usefulness From the microscopic formation of crystals to the titanic eons long processes that result in islands volcanoes mountains glaciers oceans continents and even planets you ll learn about the events that created today s world and the changes that continue to affect Earth every day **The Conflict of the Ages Teacher Edition I-III** Michael J.

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The Conflict of the Ages Student Edition I: the Scientific History of Origins Michael J. Findley, Mary C. Findley, The Conflict of the Ages is a Multi Part exploration of History Science and ancient Literature This first installment covers the concepts of God time Creation physics cosmology and specifics about each day of Creation We make comparisons with ancient sources to see where they agree with the Scriptural account We reference classic and modern scientific views exposing errors preconceptions presuppositions and falsehoods taught as fact by the mainstream scientific community God is the first witness and the Bible the first eyewitness account of beginnings and origins Other ancient documents contain at least some truths and parallel accounts

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