

## EARTH'S HISTORY

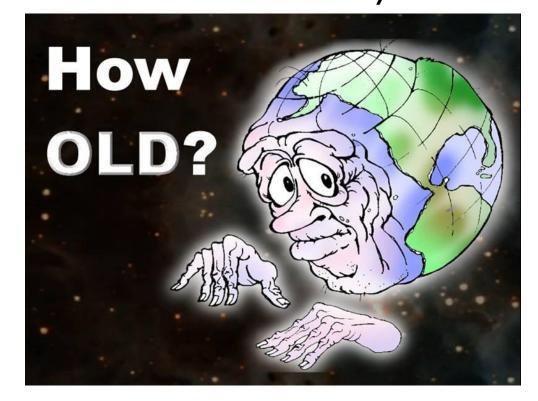
What do fossils tell us?

## How old is Earth?

Scientists believe that the Earth is about <u>4.6 billion</u>
years old.

Much of what we know about Earth's history comes

from fossils.



## What are fossils?

- A trace of a once living organism that has been preserved (saved) in a rock.
- When living things die, their bodies disintegrate, but if it becomes buried it can become transferred into durable rock-like substances.
- Usually the hard body parts of a plant or animal are what gets fossilized.

## What can we learn from fossils?

- Provide information about life and conditions of the past.
  - If a fossil of a fish is found in a mountain, that may tell us that the mountain was once underwater.

