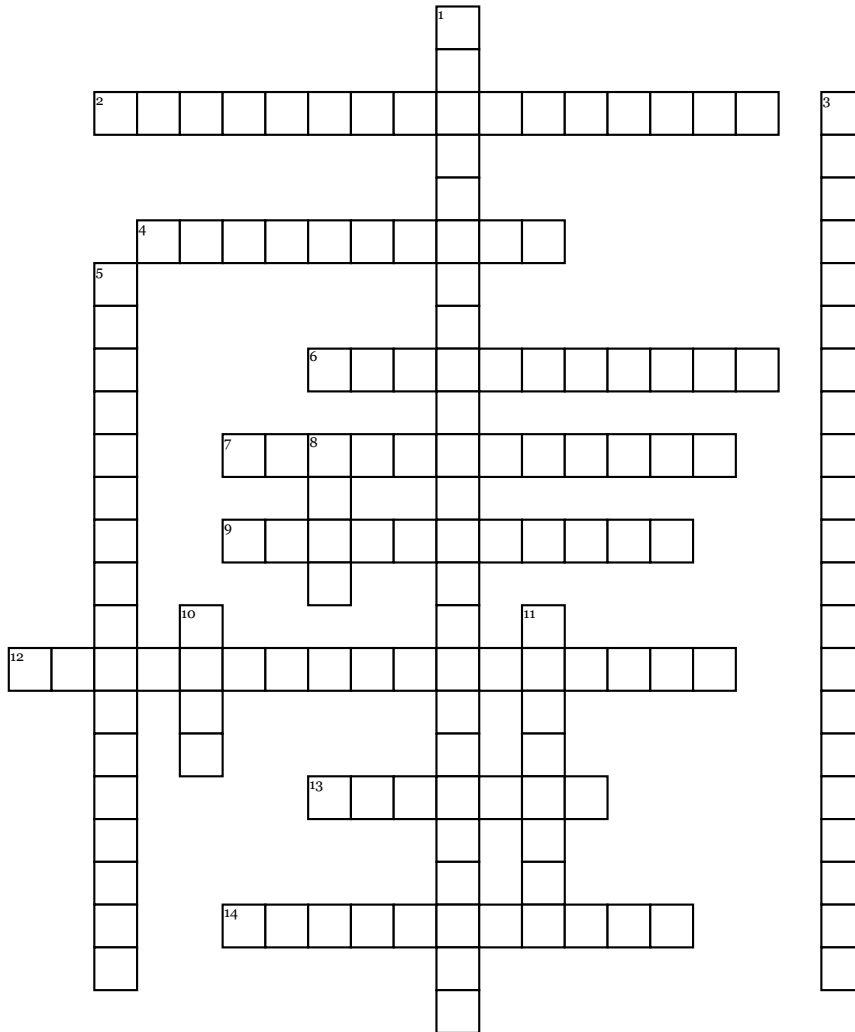


Clues to Earth's Past



Across

- 2. Release of nuclear particles and energy from unstable atomic nuclei.
- 4. Thin film of carbon residue preserved as a fossil.
- 6. Remains of species that existed on Earth.
- 7. Gap in the rock layer that is due to erosion or periods without any deposition.
- 9. Age, in years, of a rock or other object; can be determined by using properties of the atoms that make up materials.

- 12. Principle stating that Earth processes occurring today are similar to those that occurred in the past.
- 13. Remains, imprints, or traces of prehistoric organisms that can tell when and where organisms once lived and how they lived.
- 14. The age of something compared with other things.

- 5. Process used to calculate the absolute age of rock by measuring the ratio of parent isotope to daughter product in a mineral and knowing the half-life of the parent.
- 8. A type of body fossil that forms when crystals fill a mold or sediments wash into a mold and harden into a rock.
- 10. A type of body fossil that forms in rock when an organism with hard parts is buried.
- 11. Time needed for one half of the mass of a sample of a radioactive isotope to decay.

Word Bank

Radioactive decay
 Unconformity
 Relative age
 Radiometric dating
 Uniformitarianism

Carbon film
 Mold
 Principle of Superposition
 Half-life
 Permineralized remains

Absolute age
 Index fossil
 Fossils
 Cast