

Midterm X
(Chapters x-y)
Short answers

KEY

(sample written answer)

Question:

Draw, label, and explain the unconformities.

Answer:

- An **unconformity** is a gap in the geologic record that result from erosion or non-deposition. There are three types: disconformity, angular unconformity, nonconformity. A **disconformity** is a contact representing missing rock strata separating beds (usually sedimentary) that are parallel to one another. Comparison of fossils may indicate a break in the record. An **angular unconformity** is a contact in which younger strata overlie an erosion surface on tilted or folded layered rock. Fossils and crosscutting relationships may be used to determine the relative time of the folding and tilting. **Nonconformity** is a contact in which an erosion surface on plutonic or metamorphic rock has been covered by younger sedimentary or volcanic rock.

