



Coherence and Alignment Among Science Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CASCIA) Project

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species

Task 1 Prompt 1 Part B Scored and Annotated Anchor Set

May 2025

Grade 8 Unit 3: Understanding Earth History and the Origin of Species, Task 1 Prompt 1 Part B Scored and Annotated Anchor Set was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Competitive Grants for State Assessments Program CFDA 84.368A. The contents of this paper do not represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no assumption of endorsement by the Federal government should be made.

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CASCIA Grade 8 EOU Assessment 3 Task 1: A Whale of a Tale!

Prompt 1 Part B Score Point 3

Prompt 1 Part B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Identifies two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1 - Describes relative age of different rock strata - Includes a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1 (e.g., Law of Superposition)	NA

Score Point 3 (3/3 aspects met)

- Part B
 - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1.
 - Describes relative age of different rock strata.
 - Includes a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1.

Identify the location in which the oldest fossil was found. Explain how you used the geologic columns in Figure 1 and Figure 2 to identify the relative ages of the two fossils.

The oldest fossil was found at location 1. The rock layers of location two line up with the upper layers of location 3. The rock layers of location 1 line up with the lower rock layers of location 3. So the fossil in location 2 is two rock layers older than the one in location 1.

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Prompt 1 Part B Score Point 2

Prompt 1 Part B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Identifies two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1 - Describes relative age of different rock strata - Includes a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1 (e.g., Law of Superposition)	NA

Score Point 2 (2/3 aspects met)

- Part B
 - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1.
 - Does **NOT** describe relative age of different rock strata.
 - Includes a reference to comparing the three locations in Figure 1 (i.e., "... the sense of which [sic] layer it was found in from the different sites").

Identify the location in which the oldest fossil was found. Explain how you used the geologic columns in Figure 1 and Figure 2 to identify the relative ages of the two fossils.

location 1 fossil is older because it is older than the location 2 fossil in the sense of which layer it was found in from the different sites

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Prompt 1 Part B Score Point 1

Prompt 1 Part B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Identifies two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1 - Describes relative age of different rock strata - Includes a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1 (e.g., Law of Superposition)	NA

Score Point 1 (1/3 aspects met)

- Part B
 - Does **NOT** identify the oldest fossil is in Location 1.
 - Describes relative age of different rock strata (i.e., the student explains by saying "... because it is lower than ...").
 - Does **NOT** include a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1.

Identify the location in which the oldest fossil was found. Explain how you used the geologic columns in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2** to identify the relative ages of the two fossils.

The oldest fossil was found in the second one because it is lower than than the fossil in Location one.

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Prompt 1 Part B Score Point 0

Prompt 1 Part B Rubric

Prompt	Score Point 0	Score Point 1	Score Point 2	Score Point 3	Score Point 4
Prompt 1 Part B.	No aspect of the response is correct	Identifies one (1) of the three (3) aspects	Identifies two (2) of the three (3) aspects	Response includes the following aspects: - Identifies the oldest fossil is in Location 1 - Describes relative age of different rock strata - Includes a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1 (e.g., Law of Superposition)	NA

Score Point 0 (0/3 aspects met)

- Part B
 - Does **NOT** identify the oldest fossil is in Location 1.
 - Does **NOT** describe relative age of different rock strata.
 - Does **NOT** include a comparison of all three locations in Figure 1.

Identify the location in which the oldest fossil was found. Explain how you used the geologic columns in Figure 1 and Figure 2 to identify the relative ages of the two fossils.

I would say that figure 2 is the oldest because they both have a shell fossil + the first ones don't.