

THE LAW OF SUCCESSION

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DO YOU LIKE PIZZA?

Imagine you were to order a pizza and find the crust on the top and the cheese on the bottom. This would be very unusual because the layers of a pizza generally follow the same order. You know the cheese belongs on top and the crust on the bottom.



JUST LIKE PIZZA, FOSSILS COME IN LAYERS

Newer fossils appear towards the surface, while older fossils rest farther down in the earth. Fossils of organisms of the same time period are found in the same layers of rock.

This is the Law of Succession



TODAY'S APPLICATION

The **Law of succession** also states that animals that currently inhabit an area will show a resemblance to the fossils in the same area. Scientists can use these fossils to examine how evolution took place.



Photo Credit: Missouri Department of Conservation

STUDYING EVOLUTION

Using the Law of Succession, scientists have discovered many species today that resemble prehistoric organisms. For example, today's armadillos in Arizona resemble giant glyptodonts that roamed the area millions of years ago!

