

Name _____ Period _____

Evolution Graphing Practice

Directions: Read the following material, examine and line graph the data, then answer the questions that follow.

An area of sedimentary rock was being examined for fossils. The area was once believed to be inhabited by many forms of sea creatures. The geologists believed the area was between 100 million and 150 million years old. Below find a chart containing the data based on their findings. The layers are recorded from the top most to the lowest. The uppermost layer is the youngest of the layers based on geologic time.

Depth of the layer in meters.	Number of clam fossils	Number of fish fossils	Number of insect fossils
0 to 1.5	3	2	27
3	15	12	9
3.5	30	35	3
5	4	34	3
7	1	50	0

Graph Title: _____

Create your **line graph** on a blank sheet of paper or lined notebook paper. Make sure to label the x and y axes, and make a key for the graph. Answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper or in a Word document you can email to me (alyssa.henderson@k12.wv.us)

1. What is the dependent variable? _____.
2. At what level would we expect to find the most insects? _____.
3. Compared to the other two types of animals, what type of environment do you think was present at the level 0 to 1.5 meters? _____.
4. Why did you choose the answer to the above question? _____
_____.
5. What is the average number of fossils found at 5 meters? _____.
6. Why do you think there were few clam and insect fossils found at 6 meters?

_____.
7. What period of geological time did the above fossil data form? _____.
8. Of the various methods of fossil dating, which one would have been used to date the above fossils?
_____ Why? _____

_____.