

## 8th Grade Science Unit 1: Colossal Collisions

## Task 1: An Ancient Collision

**Unit Essential Question:** *What are the effects of an asteroid collision and how can we prevent a future one?*

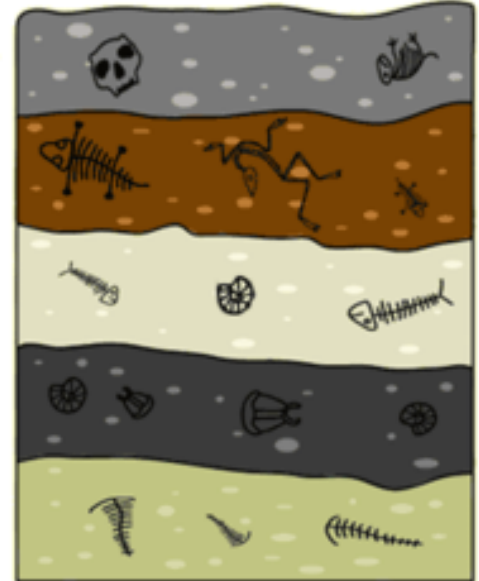
**Engage**

In the Culminating Project Challenge, we found out that an asteroid, called *Etiam*, is headed towards Earth, so we need to learn everything we can to help prevent this. There is a theory that a large asteroid hit Earth 65 million years ago. What might be the consequences of an asteroid colliding with Earth?

In groups, pull together all of your prior knowledge and see if you can guess what asteroid collision this refers to. Record below:

In order to learn about the history of life on Earth, scientists examine the ground to study the soil and the fossils of ancient organisms that are stored within each layer. They call this the “fossil record.” Before we look at data from the fossil record, let’s practice how to read it in pairs:

1. Which do you think are the oldest fossils and the youngest fossils? Label on the diagram and explain why.
2. How do you see species changing over time? Pick one example species and circle it in the layers on the diagram. Explain what anatomical changes you see over time and make a prediction for why you think these changes happened.



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