

Nicolaus Steno

1631 A.D. – 1686 A.D.



Proposed that rocks were laid down in strata, and that generally, older rocks would be on the bottom of a set of layers.

James Hutton

1726 A.D. – 1787 A.D.



Scottish geologist who proposed that the current surface of the earth is composed of rocks that have changed under heat and pressure (Vulcanism).

Abraham Gottlob Werner

1749 A.D. – 1817 A.D.



A miner who became skilled in systematic identification and classification of minerals. Proposed that a world-wide ocean was responsible for strata; theory became known as "Neptunism".

Georges Cuvier

1769 A.D. – 1832 A.D.



Curator for the French Museum of Natural History; collected and identified fossils and proposed a theory of catastrophism to account for the disappearance of species.

William Smith

1769 A.D. – 1839 A.D.



English surveyor who identified strata while digging the Somerset Canal.

Charles Lyell

1797 A.D. – 1875 A.D.



British geologist who used the appearance of shell fossils to support Darwin's theories on species development.

Georges Buffon

1707 A.D. – 1788 A.D.



French naturalist who calculated the age of the earth at 70 000 years based on physical principles of cooling rock.

Louis Agassiz

1807 A.D. – 1873 A.D.



Studied the erosion of glaciers.

1650 A.D.

1675 A.D.

1700 A.D.

1725 A.D.

1750 A.D.

1775 A.D.

1800 A.D.

1825 A.D.

1850 A.D.