Fossil Discovery

You and your partner have returned from a fossil collecting trip to the Fresno Shale in Death Valley, California. You have brought back 21 different fossils of Trilobite organisms. You labeled the fossils by the rock layers you found them in.

You now must present your fossils in a chart that shows:

The rock layers your fossils were found in.
The name and age of each rock layer.
The relative position of each fossil in the rock layer.

Position the fossils to show any evolutionary relationship you feel they may have to each other.

You will have your chart posted on the wall to share with other scientists in class.
Sample Charts showing relative ages and evolutionary relationships.
Fossil Discovery Site

The Fresno Shale
### Age of Rock – Based on Radioactive Dating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Age of Rock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Californian</td>
<td>100-200 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montanian</td>
<td>200-275 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloraodian</td>
<td>275-350 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregonian</td>
<td>350-400 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texian</td>
<td>400-500 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevadian</td>
<td>500-550 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohioian</td>
<td>550-600 million years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyomingian</td>
<td>600-750 million years old</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age of Rock – 200-275 million years ago

Upper – 200 million years ago

Lower – 275 million years ago

Fossil Morphology:
Analysis and Conclusion:

How did you come up with the idea for your chart?

Compare your chart to the chart of another group –

How are they the same?

How are they different?

What are some ways you could improve your chart now that you have seen others?

How have the organisms changed over time?

Do you think the organisms are related? Why or Why Not?

Outside Research:

Find an example of a different fossil/evolution chart for another group of organisms –

Attach your example to this assignment, you may draw it or print it.