Radiometric Dating

We can use the arrangement of fossils in the layers of rock and to determine the relative age of a fossil. But scientists can also determine the age of the rock and therefore the age of the fossil by using radiometric dating.

Use this QR code to watch the Brain Pop on Carbon Dating



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* The half-life of a radioactive element is the time it takes for half of the atoms in a sample to decay into its stable form.
* To use this method: Scientists take a sample of the rock and compare the amount of radioactive element to the amount of the stable element in order to determine the age of the rock and therefore the age of the fossil.
* The older the fossil, the greater the amount of the stable element.

Now, explain how is radiometric dating is used as evidence of evolution?