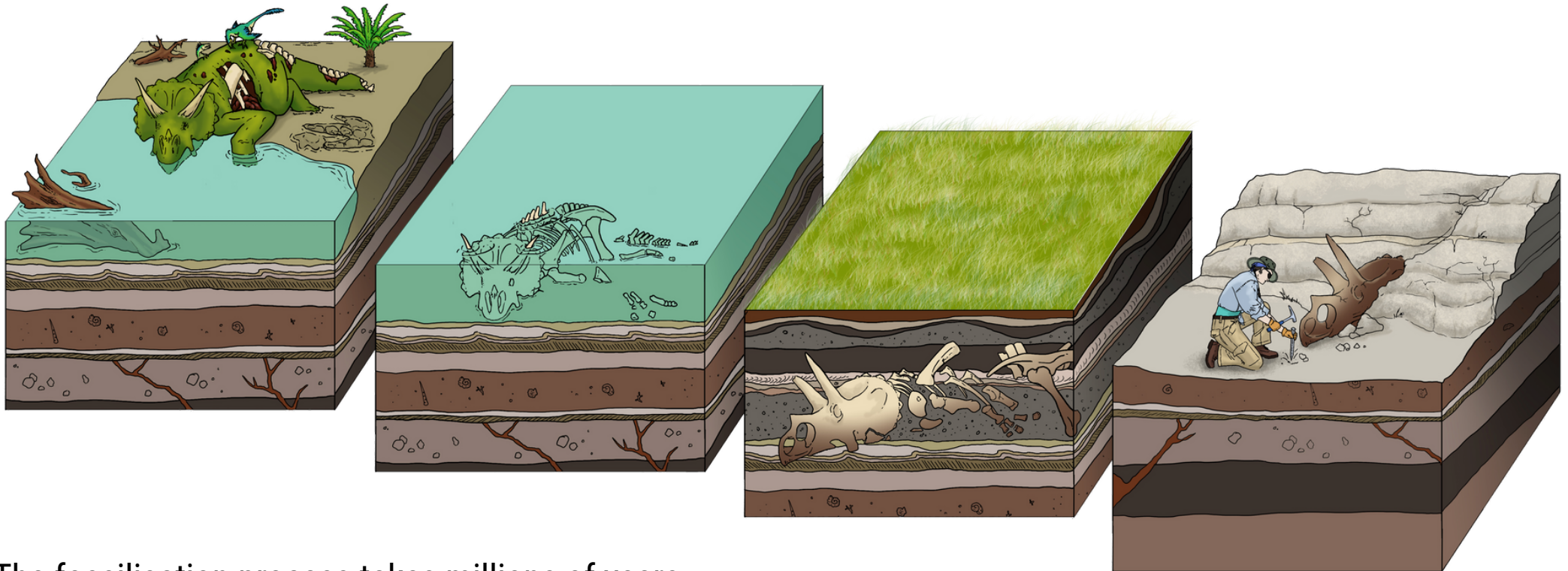


HOW A FOSSIL FORMS



Credit: Becky Barnes, ND Geological Survey

The fossilisation process takes millions of years.

The animal had to die where its body would not be destroyed by scavengers.

The body also had to be protected from oxygen and insects which would speed up the decay process.

If it fell into water and was covered by sediment, the body was more likely to be protected from decay..

If an animal died under perfect conditions, its bones could become infused with minerals to form a fossil.

Over time, layers of soil and rock would cover it until they were exposed again.

Can you draw and describe your own fossil formation sequence?



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