

Chapter Ten: The Rock and Fossil Record

Section 1: Earth's Story and Those Who First Listened

Geology: the study of the Earth's history

James Hutton:

- Said the Earth's landforms are constantly changing
- **Uniformitarianism**: geologic processes shaping the Earth today have been at work throughout Earth's history
 - Nobody believed him
 - People believed the Earth was only thousands of years old
- **Catastrophism**: geologic changes occur suddenly
 - Most scientists believed in this concept
 - Rare, sudden events are called *catastrophes*
- Later scientists found out that geologic changes occur gradually not sudden

Catastrophic events do occur occasionally

- Asteroid that led to the extinction of the dinosaurs