iPhone Index Fossils

Imagine that Humans rediscovered Earth after we abandoned the planet dues to a climate crisis. Some 5 million years have past, and the scientists on the spacecraft want to see if they can develop a timescale that would work for layers of rock that had been deposited in between the old Earth year 1980 and when they left in old Earth Year 2050.

Paleontologists discover that there are layers of rock that contain the remains of a communication device that have the markings 'iPhone' written on them

They do research of the old records and find some information about the devices, including finding one image:

They realize that more varieties of these devices have been found that seem to be younger in age than the ones in the image.

You have been tasked to find out some information about these devices, and provide advice to the paleontologists about the time range for these devices and what distinguishing features they might have to help them work out the age of the layers of rock.

What changes have occurred to these devices over time that may allow them to recognize a device if only part of it was found in a layer?

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Help complete the table below that paleontologists could use to work out the ages of layers. You have access to the old world 'internet' to look up this information:

Device name	When was it released	Distinguishing features
1st Generation	June 29, 2007	Front button, long charger post, headphone socket, smallest
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		No front button
8		
10		
12	Oct 23, 2020	

If a layer of rock contained the remains of iPhone 5 's. iPhone 6's and and iPhone 7's, what the the YOUNGEST age of that rock layer?

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What would you need to find in that layer for it to be younger?

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Why do you think an iPhone 3 was not found in that layer?

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Do you think an iPhone would make a good index fossil in the future? Why?

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