

Name _____

How Do Scientists Use Carbon-14 to Date Ancient Artifacts?

Short Answer Key

1. Carbon-14 is a type of carbon found in all living things.
2. It stops being taken in and starts breaking down slowly.
3. A half-life is the time it takes for half the carbon-14 to break down—about 5,730 years.
4. Rocks and metals were never alive, so they don't have carbon-14.
5. It helps them figure out how old ancient things are and learn about the past.

