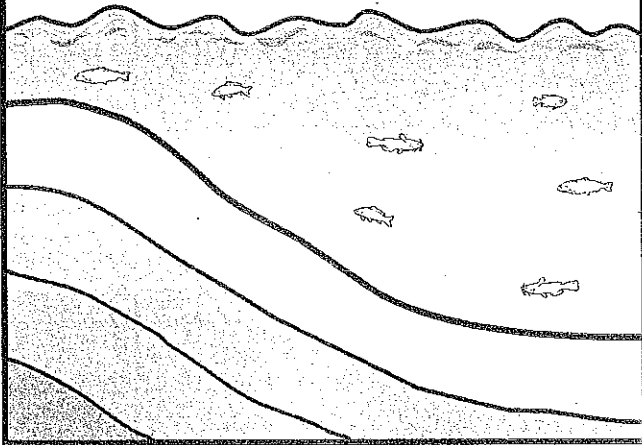
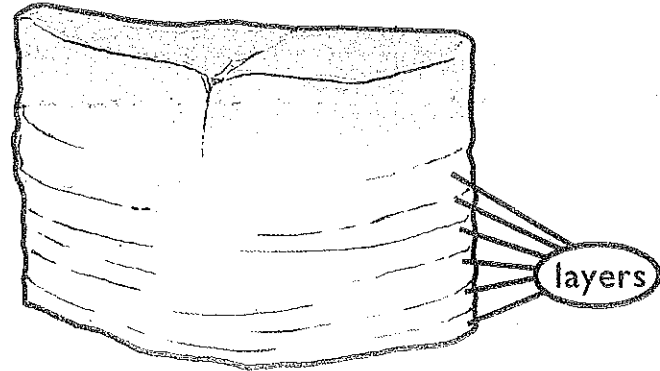


Settling on Sediments



Sedimentary rocks are made up of pieces of other rocks. These pieces are called sediments. Sediments get carried by wind, water, or ice and then are deposited in layers.

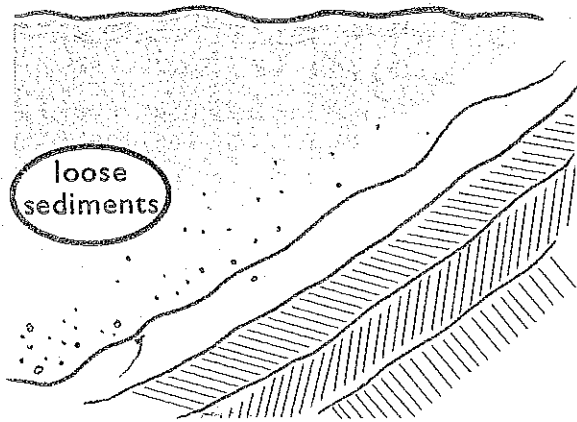


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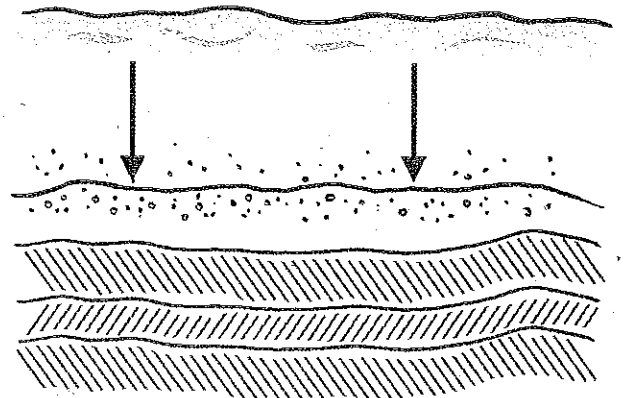
Most sediments are deposited on ocean floors. They can also be deposited at the bottom of rivers and lakes. Over time, the loose sediments form into layers of solid rocks.

Clastic Sedimentary Rocks

One kind of sedimentary rock is formed from layers of sediments. Pressure causes the water around the sediments to be squeezed out and the sediments are pushed together.

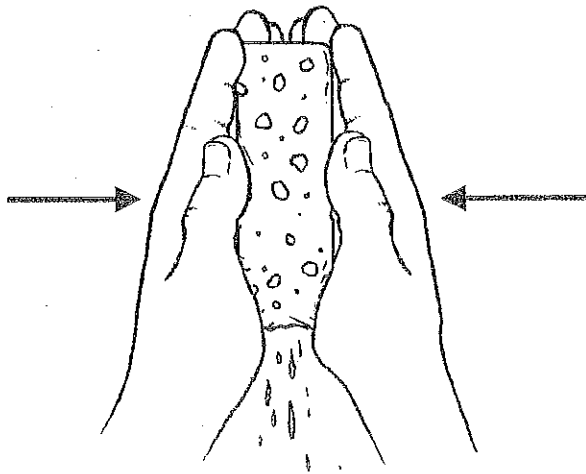


3



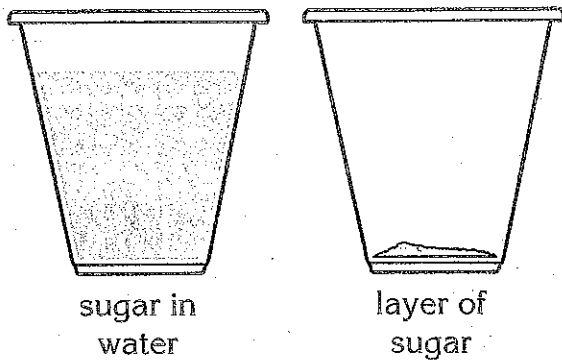
4

Imagine placing a wet sponge between the palms of your hands and squeezing it. The water is squeezed out and the once plump layer of sponge becomes a thinner layer. Sandstones, shales, and conglomerates form this way.



5

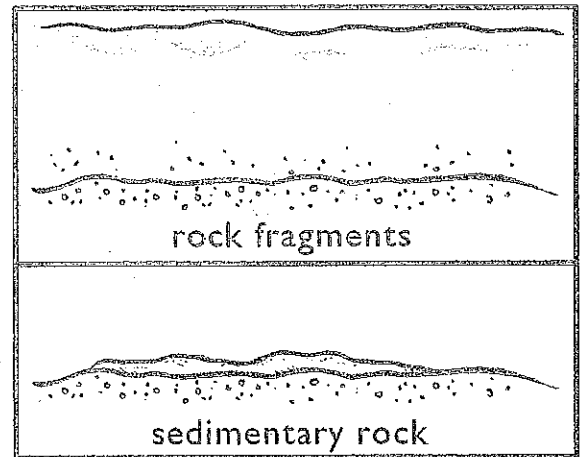
This type of sedimentary rock can be modeled by stirring sugar in water and watching it dissolve. If you let the water evaporate, a layer of sugar will be left in the bottom of the glass. Rock salt and gypsum form this way.



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Chemical Sedimentary Rocks

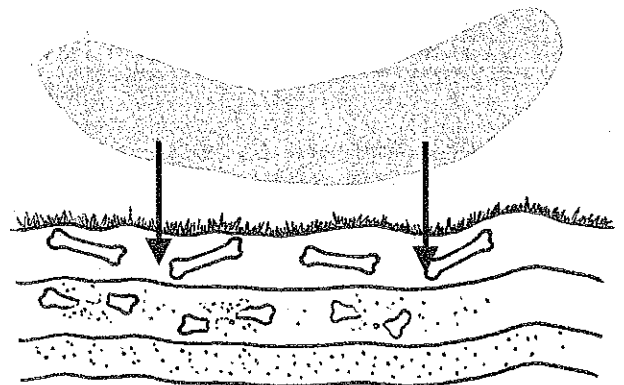
Another kind of sedimentary rock forms when rock fragments dissolve in water. Over time the water evaporates and the minerals that were in the rock turn back into large layers of crystals.



6

Organic Sedimentary Rocks

The last kind of sedimentary rock forms from the remains of shells, skeletons, and other plant and animals parts. Over time, the pressure of soil turns things into layers of rocks. Limestones and coals form this way.



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