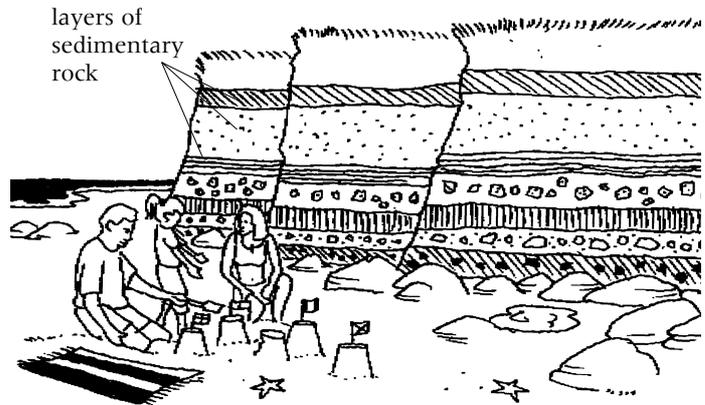


Sedimentary rocks are formed from layers of sediment. The layers of sediment can be laid down over a very long period of time. If the type of sediment which is deposited changes, then the type of rock which is formed will also change. If different layers of rock are formed on top of one another, we get layers of rock like those shown in the cliff face.



Imagine that the area where you are sitting was once covered by water. This is what might have happened to make the sedimentary rocks beneath you.

- The first layer of sediment to be deposited was gravel, made up of fragments of other rocks.
- Over a period of time, smaller rock fragments were deposited next, forming a layer of sand.
- Shellfish lived in the water and as these died, their remains formed a layer of sediment.
- The sea level dropped and the water became much shallower and a layer of very small clay particles was deposited.
- Trees and plants grew along the edge of the water. When the trees died their remains formed a layer of sediment.
- There was a change in sea level and the shallow marshy area became flooded. Microscopic organisms called plankton lived in the warm waters. As they died, their remains formed another layer of sediment.

Layers of different sediments form different rocks:

- gravel forms conglomerate
- sand forms sandstone
- clay forms shale
- plant fragments form coal
- remains of small shellfish form shelly limestone
- microscopic plankton form chalk.

- ?** 1 Symbols can be used to represent these rocks. Cut out the symbols below and stick them in the order in which they were formed in the passage above. Remember to put the rock formed from the first layer of sediment at the bottom.
- 2 Which rock was formed first?
- 3 Which rock was formed last?
- 4 Which rock will be squashed the most? Explain your answer.

S knowledge

