

Sedimentary rock is naturally formed in the Earth's crust. It is formed when sediment deposits form layers, compact, and then cement together, creating a new rock. Sedimentary rocks are used for building materials, and sometimes they even contain fossils.



Key vocabulary

sediment

Rocks, sand, or dirt that has been carried to a place by water, wind, or a glacier.

weathering

The breakdown of the materials in the Earth's crust into sediment. Erosion is the process of moving this sediment.

erosion

The wearing away of land or soil by wind, water, or ice.

Related articles



The Rock Cycle

You might think rocks never change, but that is not true. Like water and nitrogen, rocks have their own cycle, and it is all about change



Igneous Rocks

Can you imagine melting a rock? It takes a lot of heat, but the earth has plenty!



Metamorphic Rocks

Take a rock, add a whole bunch of heat and pressure, and presto! You have a new kind of rock: a metamorphic rock.



Weathering & Erosion

Some of the world's most famous landmarks were created by weathering and erosion. Ever heard of the Grand Canyon? That is one of them.



Fossils

Fossils have stories to tell! These preserved bits of living things tell us a story of what the world was like thousands and millions of years ago.



Minerals

You may have heard of minerals. They are important to living things all over the planet.