Lesson 3: Sedimentary Rock Model

Materials:
- Play-Doh in a variety of colors
- Small shells
- Fossil PowerPoint slide or printed picture

Objectives:
1. Students will learn that fossils are found in sedimentary rock.
2. Students will evaluate a model.

Procedure:

1. Show students the Fossil PowerPoint slide or a printed picture. Ask the students to identify the rock in the picture.
   **Explain:**
   - Fossils are found only in sedimentary rocks
   - Since the rock has fossils in it, it is a sedimentary rock.

2. Ask the students to explain how sedimentary rocks form.
   **Explain:** *sedimentary rocks form when layers of sediment press together overtime.*

3. Distribute four marble-sized balls of Play-Doh and one small shell to each student. Tell the students that they will make a model of a sedimentary rock embedded with a fossil. The students will press the Play-Doh into flat pieces—one on top of another. Have them place the shell on the top layer of the Play-Doh.
4. Engage in conversations together.
   Ask the students, “What does the Play-Doh represent?”
   *It represents the layers of sediment.*

   Ask the students, “What does the shell represent?”
   *It represents a fossil.*

   Ask the students, “How is your model of a sedimentary rock similar to an actual sedimentary rock?”
   *Examples include: It shows layers. The layers are different colors.*

   Ask the students, “How is your model of a sedimentary rock different from an actual sedimentary rock?”
   *Examples include: The colors are too bright. The Play-Doh is very soft. The shell is not a fossil.*

   Ask the students, “How can we improve our model?”
   *Examples include: Use brown and brown and black Play-Doh. Use a real fossil. Make the model bigger.*

   Ask the students, “What can we speculate if we find sedimentary rocks with fossils of shells or fish in a desert?”
   *Examples include: The desert was once covered by water. It used to be an ocean.*


**Extension Ideas:**
Students can collect rocks from the playground and look for evidence of fossils.

KLRN PBS LearningMedia:
http://klrn.pbslearningmedia.org

On PBS LearningMedia, search for: Fun with Fossils. It is a segment from NOVA that discusses how the rock layers and fossils of the Grand Canyon reveal that the area was once an ocean.

*Science 4.3C, 5.7.A, 5.7D*