

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 that 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.

5. Distribute the Evaluation Models: Sedimentary Rock worksheet.

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