

MAKE AN EDIBLE SEDIMENTARY ROCK!

This activity visualises how a sedimentary rock is made by making a delicious treat you can eat afterwards!

Sedimentary rocks are made from pieces of other rocks like pebbles, rock fragments and sediment/sand. Some sedimentary rocks also contain fossils which range from small pieces of shell to the remains of a dinosaur! They also usually form in layers.



WHAT DO I NEED?

- Melted chocolate – white, milk or dark (or all three!).
- Biscuits (Oreos and digestives work well).
- Round/smooth sweets like smarties to represent pebbles and stones.
- Raisins/ dried fruit/ nuts to represent fossils.
- A tray.

This is a sedimentary rock called limestone. It's made of lots of small pieces of shell that have been cemented together.

METHOD

1. Line a small tin with baking paper. The tin represents part of the ocean as this is where most sedimentary rocks form.
2. Rock fragments are carried into the ocean by rivers and streams. To represent this, crush your biscuits up into little pieces (not too small) and crumble them into the tin.
3. Some rock fragments will be rounded over time into smooth pebbles by rivers or waves on a beach before being deposited in the ocean. Add round sweets like smarties to the tin to represent rocks that have been smoothed over time.
4. Your tin (or the ocean) now contains rock fragments and smooth pebbles that have settled on the ocean floor. Through a processes called compaction and sedimentation, the rock pieces in the ocean will be squeezed together to form solid rock. To stick the biscuit and sweets together we are going to add melted chocolate.
5. Pour the melted chocolate over the biscuits and sweets and give it a little stir so that everything is covered.
6. When creatures living in the ocean die, their shells and bones settle on the ocean floor and can form fossils. Sprinkle the dried fruit and nuts over the melted chocolate to represent fossils.
7. Put your sedimentary rock into the fridge to set and enjoy!