



## DIY ACTIVITY

# MAKE A SEDIMENTARY ROCK FORMATION MODEL GRADES 3-5

### OBJECTIVES

- Model the formation of sedimentary rock through deposition.

### PROCEDURE

1. Add a handful of rocks to the plastic container.
2. Then add a handful of the smaller rocks or gravel.
3. Then add a few spoonfuls of sand and then a layer of baby powder.
4. Add water until the container is almost full.
5. Place lid on tightly. Shake and allow to settle.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Plastic container with lid
- Rocks
- Smaller rocks (pebbles or gravel)
- Sand
- Baby powder
- Water
- Spoon

### WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

When water is moving, like in a river or ocean waves, sediment is suspended in the water. When it slows down, sediment is deposited. Larger sediment settles first and finer sediment remains suspended longer. Layers form based on the size of the sediment. Over time, the layers can become compacted to form sedimentary rock. Additional layers form on top of the first as more sediment is washed into the system.

### FURTHER EXPLORATION

Try different sized sediment particles in your model. Add other materials, such as mud or silt. Or add a shell to represent a fossil.