





Earth's Landscapes Activity for Kids

Sedimentary Rock Model DIY

 Duration: **30-60 min**  Difficulty: **Easy**  Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Model the formation of sedimentary rock through deposition!

Material List

- 1** Plastic container with lid
- 1** Handful of small rocks
- 1** Handful of gravel
- 1** Handful of sand
- 1** Baby powder or flour optional
- 1** Liter of water
- 1** Spoon

Instructions

- 1** Add a handful of rocks to the plastic container.
- 2** Then add a handful of the gravel.
- 3** Then add a layer of sand followed by a layer of baby powder or flour.
- 4** Add water until the container is almost full but not all the way.
- 5** Place lid on tightly. Shake and allow to settle.

How It Works

When water is moving, like in a river or ocean waves, sediment is suspended in the water making it look dirty or muddy. When it slows down, sediment settles down on the bottom of the lake or ocean and it 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. After thousands or millions of years the layers can be as high as some mountains!