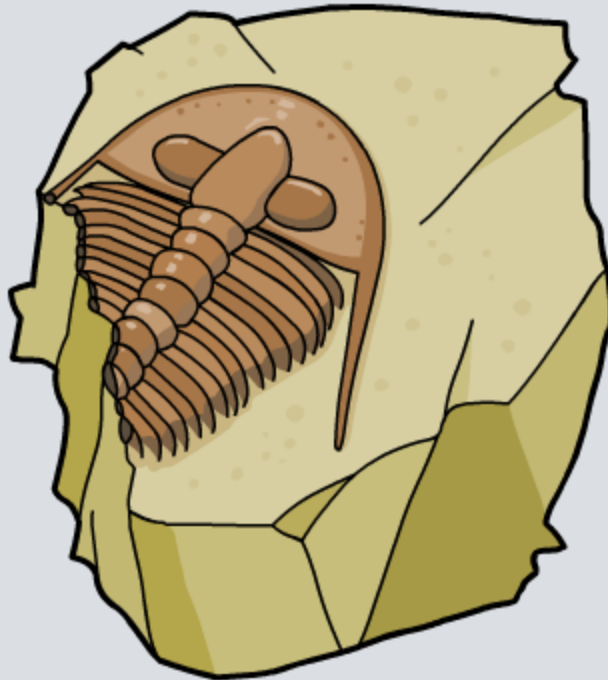


Sedimentary Rocks

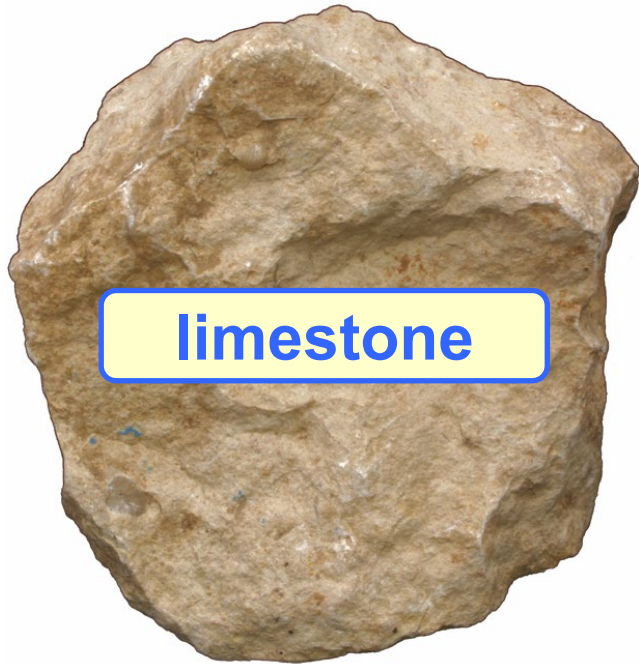


Pancake rocks in New Zealand

These limestone rocks at Punakaiki in New Zealand are known as the Pancake Rocks. How do you think they were formed?



What are sedimentary rocks?



limestone



chalk



sandstone



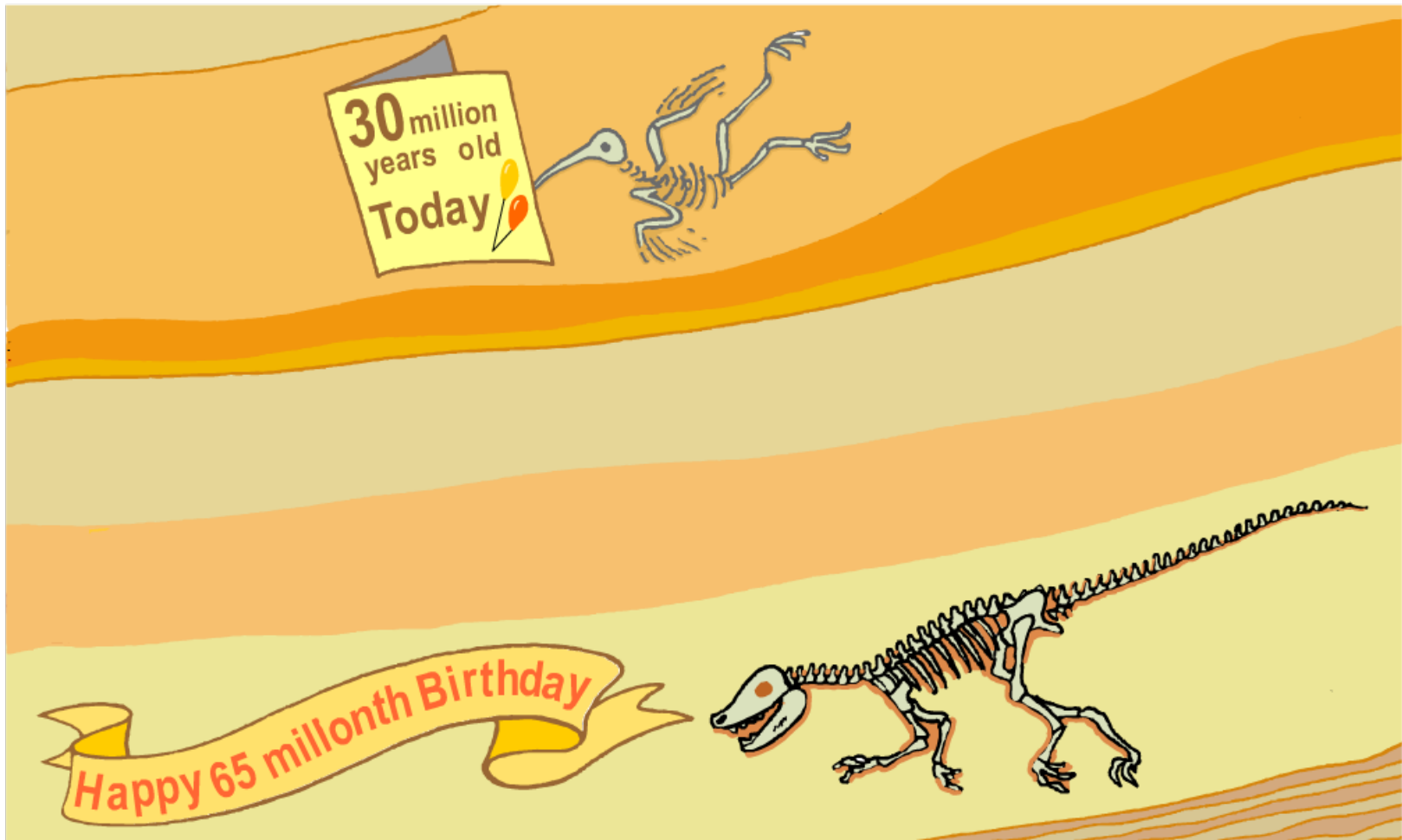
What are the properties of sedimentary rocks?

- Sedimentary rocks often have layers showing the deposition of sediment at different time periods.
- Sedimentary rocks are made of lots of small grains. These grains are weakly held together so the rocks are often porous and may be soft and crumbly.
- Sedimentary rocks often have fossils trapped within them.



Comparing ages of sedimentary rocks

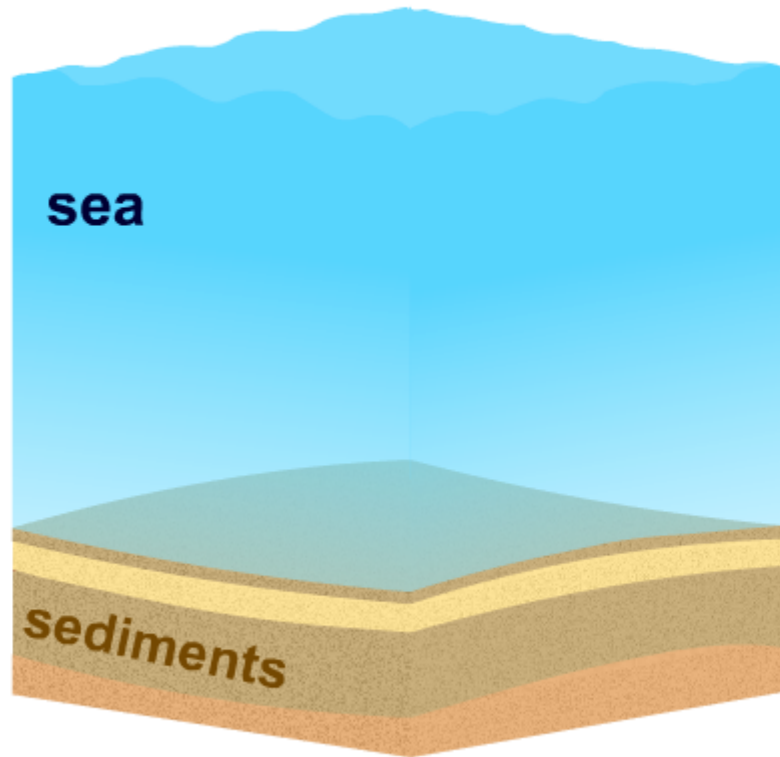
Why are sedimentary rocks near the surface younger than sedimentary rocks deeper down?



How are sedimentary rocks formed?

Sedimentary rock is formed from multiple layers of solid particles and dissolved minerals over thousands of years.

Click "**play**" to find out more.



How are fossils formed?

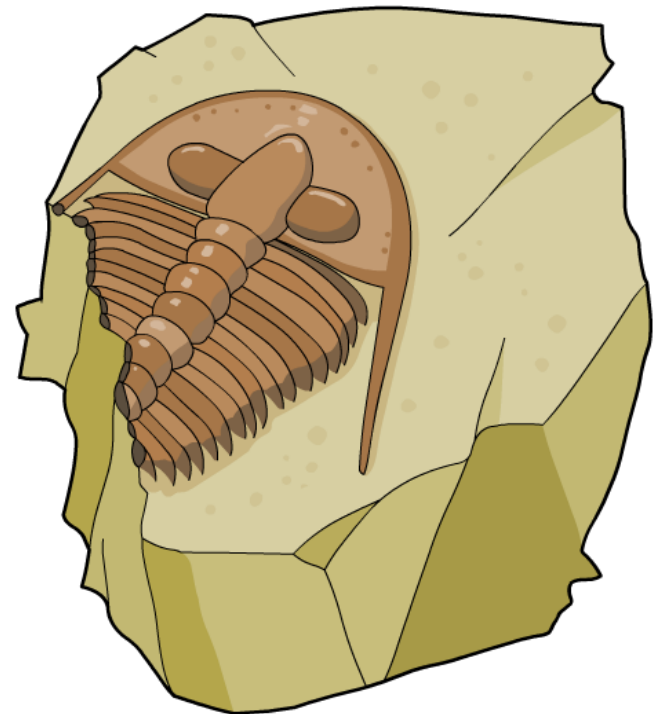
When small rock fragments are transported to the sea, they are deposited (sink) and form a sediment.

Dead creatures may become trapped within the sediment.

Over millions of years, the pressure of layers above cements the sediment together.

This is how sedimentary rocks like sandstone, mudstone and limestone are formed.

As the body of the creature decays away, its shape is left imprinted in the rock, forming a fossil.



Formation by evaporation of water

Sedimentary rocks can also be formed from minerals that are left behind when water evaporates.

- Some minerals are dissolved in seas and lakes.
- Over millions of years these seas or lakes dry up.
- As the water disappears, the dissolved minerals are left behind.
- Chalk and limestone can be formed in this way.



Which type of sedimentary rock?

What is the identity of these sedimentary rocks?



1

2

3

4

chalk

sandstone

mudstone

limestone



solve

