Unit 4 Sedimentary rocks

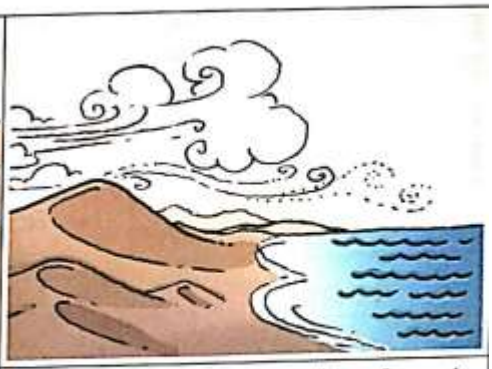
Sedimentation

Study the pictures and paragraph and answer the question.

Sedimentary rocks are formed over a very long time

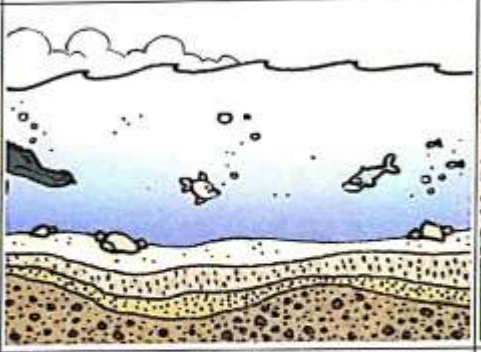
When the Earth was forming billions of years ago, there were no sedimentary rocks. There was only igneous rock.

The natural weathering processes (rain, wind, water) began breaking down the igneous rock into smaller rock.



This was broken into grains of sand and clay. When it rained or the wind blew, the particles were blown or swept away. They were blown over the Earth's surface into oceans, seas, dams, lakes and rivers.

The mud, sand and sediment are deposited in low-lying areas.



Most sedimentary rocks form in water, where the weight of the water presses down on the layers of sand and clay. This weight squashes the rocks together into new sedimentary rocks.

*Sometimes dead animals and plants get stuck between the layers. These form **fossils**, which are often found in sedimentary rock.*

Some soil particles, like sand, are heavier than others and sink faster when they fall into water. This is how different types of sedimentary rock form layers, and have different textures.

Sedimentary rocks continue to form all the time.

Keyword

fossils: the remains of a plant or animal from the distant past that has been kept in the ground and has become hard like rock

- Rain, sun and wind begin to break down rocks into smaller pieces and grains.
- Wind and water transport these pieces and grains to other areas.
- Wind and water transport these particles over time to low-lying areas, some in water, some on land.
- Over time, new particles are deposited on top of existing layers.
- After many years, these layers are compressed, hardened and form sedimentary rock.

Briefly explain how sedimentary rocks are formed?

Briefly explain how sedimentary rocks are formed?

- Rain, sun and wind begin to break down rocks into smaller pieces and grains.
- Wind and water transport these pieces and grains to other areas.
- Wind and water transport these particles over time to low-lying areas, some in water, some on land.
- Over time, new particles are deposited on top of existing layers.
- After many years, these layers are compressed, hardened and form sedimentary rock.