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Super
SCIENCE



HOW CAN ROCKS TELL A STORY?

You can try and make your own rock
and tell a fantastic story

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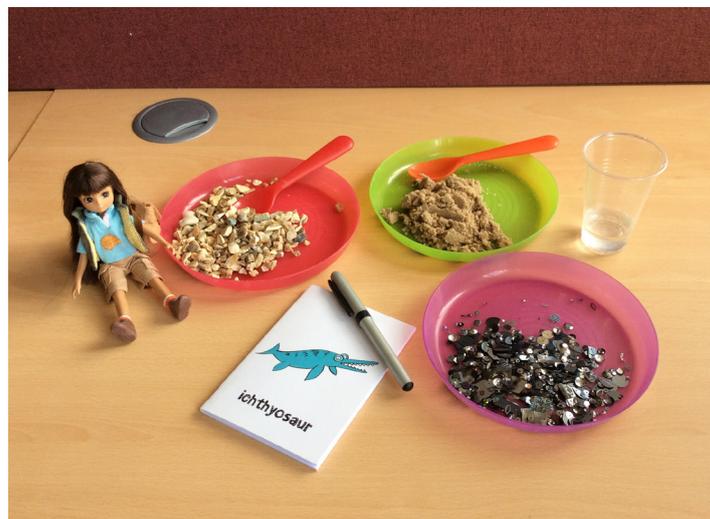
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HOW CAN ROCKS TELL A STORY?

Sedimentary rocks are formed from layers of sand, mud and pebbles over long periods of time. Each rock layer tells a story of how it was formed in its environment such as a desert, river or sea bed. If there were animals or plants around, then often these have become fossilised within the rock layers. You can try and make your own rock and tell a fantastic story or changing climate and exotic animals and plants that lived in your ancient world!

YOU WILL NEED

- A clear plastic glass
- A teaspoon
- Water
- Small amounts (about a cup of each) of sand, gravel and shells (or beads).



HOW CAN ROCKS TELL A STORY?

WHAT YOU DO

Step 1

Put a small amount of water (about 1 cm) high in your plastic cup.

Step 2

Try and plan which “rock layers” you would like put into your cup. Try and see if you can tell a story with the “rock” that you choose. The play sand could represent an ancient desert dominated by sand dunes.

The gravel could tell a story of an ancient flood where huge boulders were transported by flowing rivers. Your beads or shells could be ancient animals that have died and become fossils.



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Step 3

Taking a small teaspoon of your chosen “rock”, gently tip it into your glass and let it settle. Then choose the next layer and tip that into the glass. As you start to put your “rock layers” in, you will begin to build your rock and tell an amazing story of geological time!



Step 4

Once you have finished building your rock layers, try and make a drawing of your “rock” on a sheet of paper. Can you describe the story of what is happening in the layers?.



HOW CAN ROCKS TELL A STORY?

You could compare your story with other “rocks” your friends have made. Perhaps you could give a new name to this new geological time period, like the Lottiesic!

Can you perhaps create an illustration based on these photos on what the rock should look like?



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