

## Indoor Activity: Sedimentary Cake Layers

Fossils are the remains or traces of plants and animals that lived a long time ago. These remains are found in sedimentary rocks. Sedimentary rocks are formed over time from different layers of sand and mud pressed together and compacted. Fossils get trapped between the layers. The further a scientist goes down in the sedimentary rock, the older the rock and the older the fossil! Some scientists, like geologists, use a method of core sampling to remove multiple layers of rock at one time. This activity will provide an example of the different layers and aging techniques used with sedimentary rock!

### Benefits

- Learn about sedimentary rock and fossil aging.
- Fun for all ages!
- Gain an understanding of baking and measurement.



### Supplies

- 1 Box of Cake Mix (Including ingredients on the box)
- 4 Small Bowls
- 4 Different Food Coloring Colors
- 4 Spoons
- Muffin Baking Pan
- Cupcake Liners
- Mini Oreos
- Frosting
- Sprinkles

### What to do

- Preheat the oven and mix the cake batter according to the box instructions.
- Separate the cake mix into the 4 small bowls evenly.
- Add a different food coloring color to each bowl and mix with separate spoons.
- Line the muffin tin with cupcake liners.
- Layer the different batter colors a few spoon fills at a time into the liners (The Sediment). Placing an Oreo in a different layer in each cupcake (The Fossils).
- Bake the cupcakes according to box instructions.
- Once they are cooled decorate the cupcakes with frosting and sprinkles (The Earth's Crust).

When you split open your cupcake can you tell how old your fossil (The Oreo) is based on where it sits in your sediment (The Cake Layers)?

## Outdoor Activity: Fossil Finding Hike

**Fossilization occurs when an organism is buried and pressed into sediment allowing it to leave an imprint before decomposing.**

**Generally, animals without bones decompose faster and are less likely to fossilize. Crinoids are an extremely common fossil as they date all the way back to the Paleozoic Era and there are still species of crinoids alive today. For this activity go to your favorite hiking spot and see if you can find any fossils on your adventure.**

### Additional Supplies (Optional)

- Camera to take pictures
- A Notebook to take notes
- Coat & gloves in case of inclement weather

