



Vocabulary

Bedding

layers in rocks due to sedimentary processes

Grain Size

size of individual particles of sediments

Sorting of Sediments

Sediments show signs of being laid by wind and water. Bedding usually demonstrates a decrease in grain size upwards. Rivers lose power after rain and winds often rise and fall at different times of the day or year. Most of our rivers in Western Australia are seasonal and some are ephemeral, only flowing one year in seven. People living on the coast enjoy the afternoon breezes such as “The Fremantle Doctor” when the differential rate of heating of land and water produces a pressure front. Inland, the cold dry wind that blows from the desert during winter is a daily constant, which some people find intolerable.

This sorting effect can be demonstrated by shaking a mixture of solids in a liquid and letting it settle.

Equipment

- Large screw top jar (plastic is preferable as it won't shatter)
- Road gravel
- Washed sand
- Small pieces of polystyrene or wood
- Water and/or vegetable oil

Method

Place all materials into the jar, screw top on firmly, shake well and leave to settle.

Sedimentary Sandwiches

This can either be carried out as a hands-on activity or at concept level. If students are to eat the sandwiches, this activity cannot be performed in a laboratory. The sandwiches can be created in the quad or in the cookery classrooms. The filling of the sandwiched should decrease in thickness upwards to simulate bedding. The top layer of bread is the start of the next cycle.

Equipment

Enough for the class/group:

- Sliced bread
- Butter/spread
- Lettuce
- Cherry tomatoes
- Sliced polony/ham/cheese
- Mayonnaise
- Paper plates
- Knives for spreading