

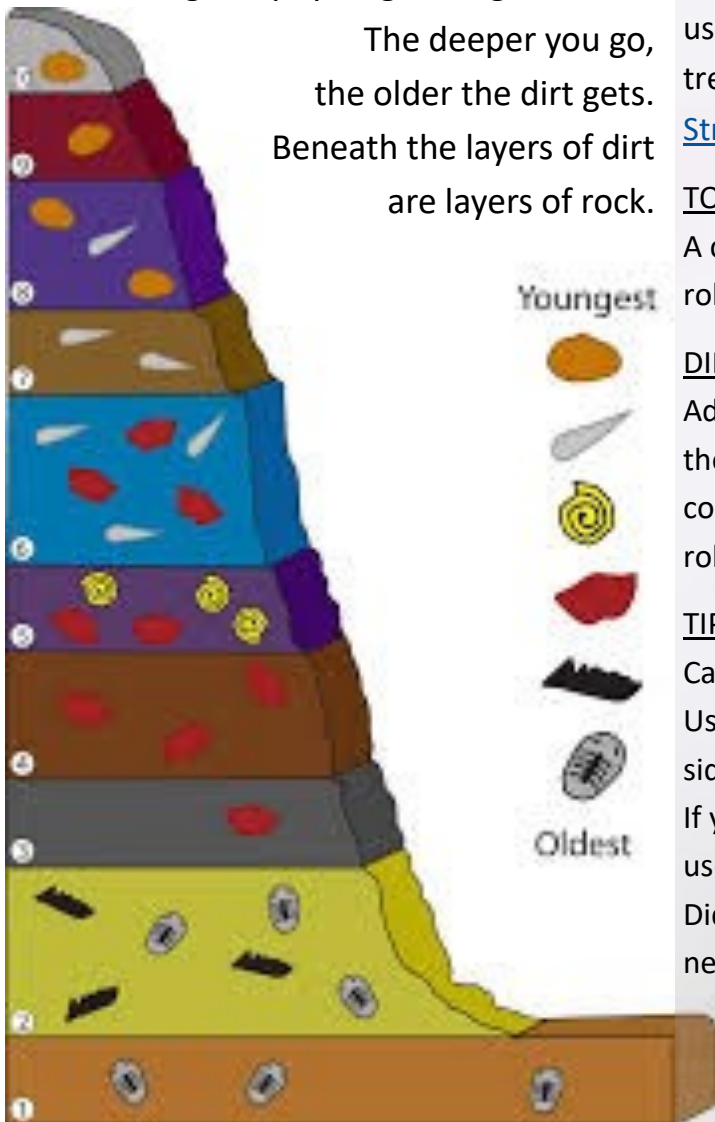
# Sand Art Stratigraphy

## What in the world is *stratigraphy*!?

**Stratigraphy** is the study of *strata*, or layers. When we put on layers of clothing, we start with the layer closest to our skin, then each layer we add must go overtop the previous layer. When we look at layers in a cake, which layer is the “oldest,” which layer was the first to be placed by the baker? The baker begins with the bottom layer, then adds icing, or fruit, and more cake, building layer by layer. This is how we can think of deposits of rock or soil: the older layers are deposited, then the new layers build on top of the older layers. There are many places you can see exposed layers of rock, like the Grand Canyon, or along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The top layer of dirt, the topsoil, is the “youngest,” churning with life, water & nutrients regularly cycling through the soil.

The deeper you go,  
the older the dirt gets.  
Beneath the layers of dirt  
are layers of rock.



There are many ways you could create your own *stratigraphic column*, or section of layers. You can create layers of rock or dirt in your yard, or in a bucket. You can use layers of sorbet or ice cream and fruit to create a tasty treat! Or you can make your own [colorful Sand Art Stratigraphy!](#)

### TOOLS & MATERIALS:

A clear bottle or jar, colored chalk, table salt, and a funnel or rolled piece of paper.

### DIRECTIONS:

Add some chalk to a plastic bag with some table salt in it. Use the salt to help crush the chalk and color the salt. Use as many colors as you want to use for your layers. Use a funnel, or a rolled piece of paper to layer different colors of salt.

### TIPS:

Carefully tilt your container to create angled layers.

Use a skewer or toothpick to create vertical designs along the sides of your container.

If you want to keep your sand art to display, you may want to use a container with a lid.

Did you know you can make your own sidewalk chalk? All you need is Plaster of Paris, water, and some paint.

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/crafts/layered-sand-jars/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcCwR-EzZwU>