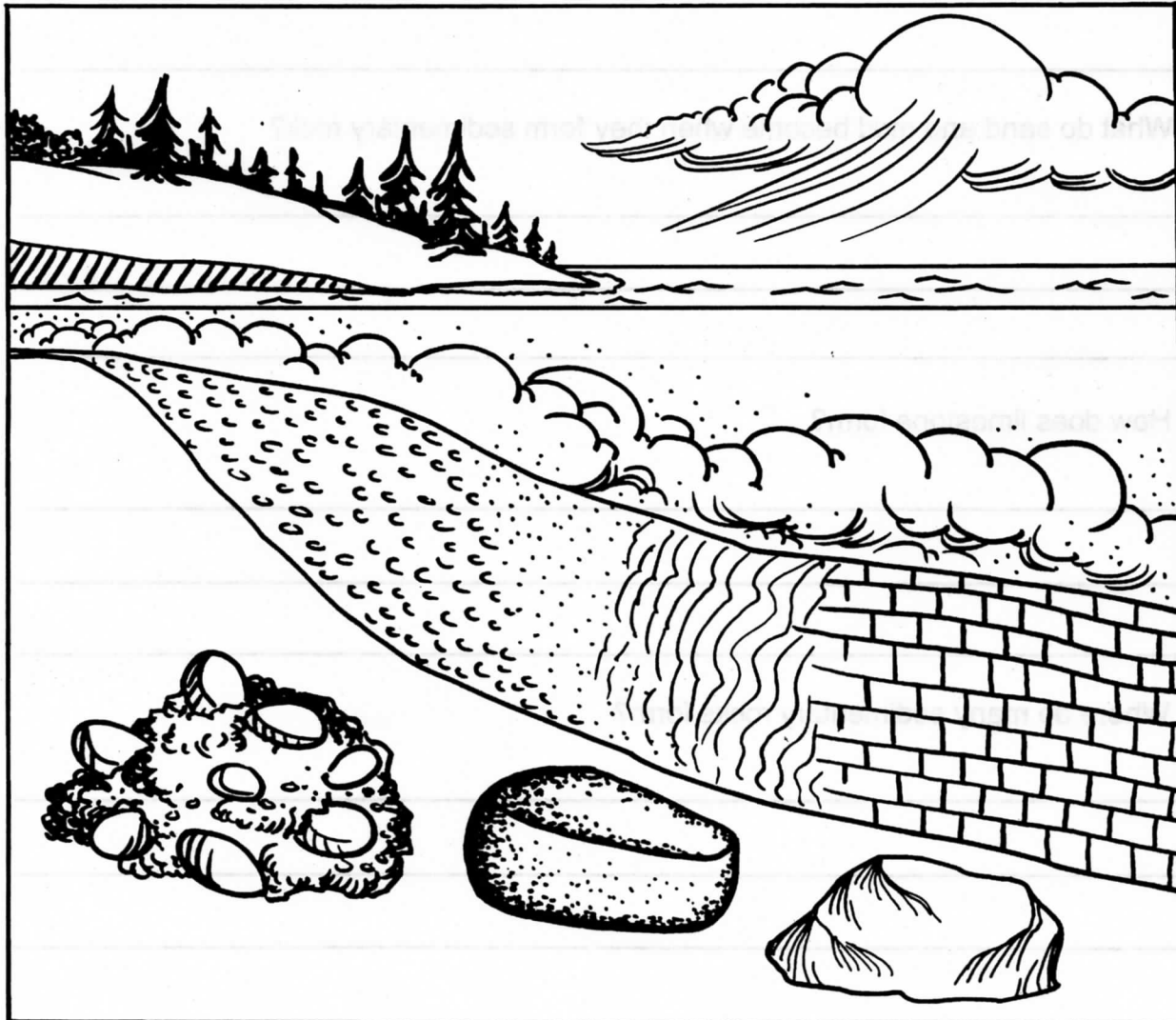


Types of Rock: Sedimentary

What happens to mud or silt or gravel or sand when it is subjected to pressure, heat, or chemical change? It becomes rock—actually a particular type of rock called sedimentary rock. Sand becomes sandstone, gravel becomes conglomerate, and mud and clay become shale. All of these are types of clastic sedimentary rocks. That means they formed from particles of rock. Nonclastic rocks are formed by chemical precipitation or by organic activity. Limestone, gypsum, and coal are examples of nonclastic rocks.

Water, wind, waves, and gravity are always at work on the Earth's surface. Rocks are slowly being broken down. These broken pieces are called sediments. They can be fairly large, gravel-sized, or very small, as fine as powder.

Sediments often accumulate in layers at the bottoms of lakes or oceans. Layers upon layers stack up. The lower layers, under all the pressure from the layers above them, form rock. This sedimentary rock covers much of the North American continent.



Sedimentary rocks form when mud, silt, gravel, or sand is subjected to pressure, heat, or chemical change.

Name _____ Date _____

For the student:

1. Where is sedimentary rock found?

2. What natural activities work to break down rock?

3. What do sand and mud become when they form sedimentary rock?

4. How does limestone form?

5. Where do many sedimentary rocks form?
