

Welcome to Badlands National Park! The diagram below shows the **sedimentary rock layers** of Badlands National Park. Read the messages below to learn more about each layer.

Color each layer.

Most of the **brown** and **tan** layers in Badlands National Park are made up of **sandstone, mudstone, and siltstone**. Ancient rivers carried gravel, sand, and silt to this area. Over time these sediments hardened into the sedimentary rock layers of today.

This **ash** layer came from ancient volcanic eruptions. The volcanoes were far to the west in present day Nevada. The ash traveled in the air and settled here to form this **grey** layer.

The **red** stripes in the Badlands are **ancient fossilized soils**. Scientists that study these ancient soils have found fossil root traces, ancient bones, and ancient snail shells.

The ancient sea drained away when the Black Hills formed in western South Dakota. This layer turned **yellow** because it was exposed to the air. Tropical plants grew here. Today this layer is called the **Yellow Mounds**.

The **Pierre Shale** is the oldest layer in Badlands. These **black** layers were deposited by an ancient sea. Fossil of ancient sea creatures are found here.

