

Module 1  
Lessons 1-5

Anchor Phenomenon: Formation of the Grand Canyon's  
Features Essential Question: How did the Grand Canyon's  
features form?

Focus Question 1: What do Earth's rock layers reveal?

- In **undisturbed** layers of rock, the **oldest layers of rock will be at the bottom** and the **youngest layers of rock are found at the top**.
- Layers of rock and the fossils in those layers provide evidence of **changes** to **Earth's surface** over time.
- Examples:
  - Fossils of coral and sponges tell scientists that a layer would have formed under the ocean.
  - Fossils of ferns tell scientists that a layer would have formed in a wet land environment.
- Scientists who study rock layers are called **geologists**, and scientists who specifically study fossils are called **paleontologists**
- Students will also need to be able to analyze a chart or pictures of fossil layers and describe the changes in the environment over time. (See logbook p.13)

