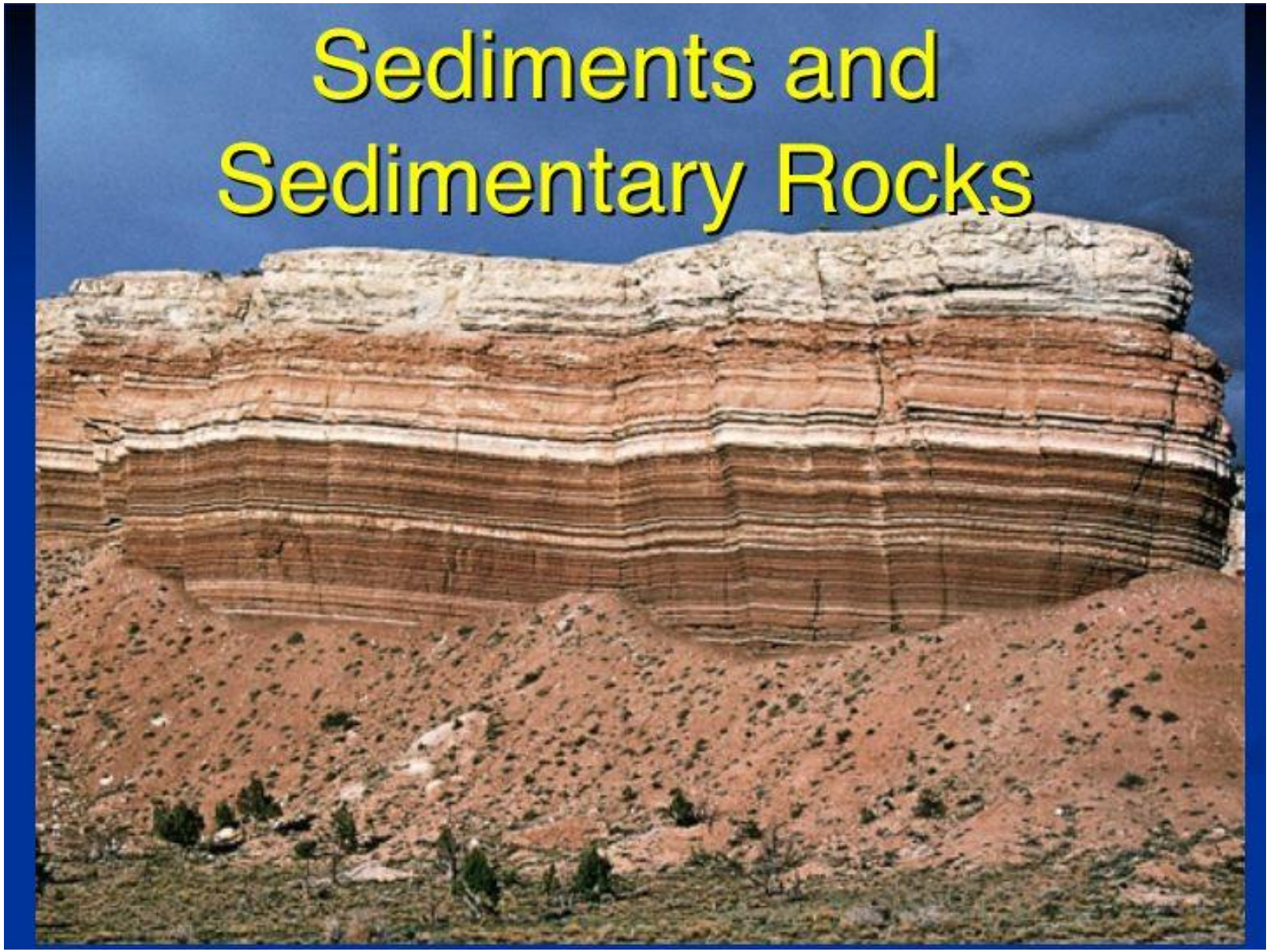
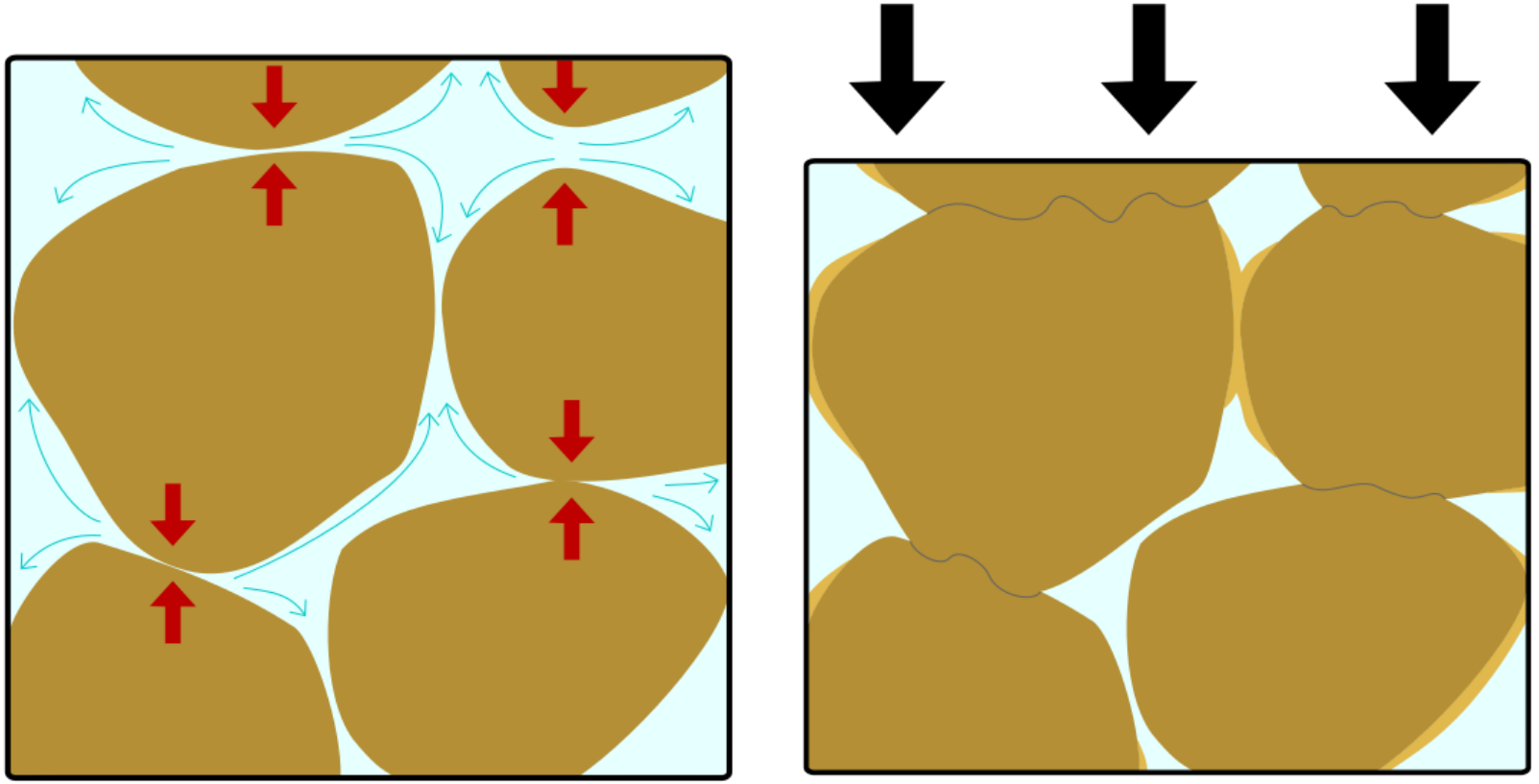
Sedimentary rocks photos of sediments and rocks


Sediments and
Sedimentary Rocks

Conglomerate-Forming Environment: A beach where strong waves have deposited rounded, cobble-size rocks. If buried and lithified these materials might be transformed into a conglomerate. Image copyright by iStockPhoto and Jason van der Valk.

Conglomerate-Size Sediment Clasts: Pebble-size clasts of many compositions deposited together on a beach. Quartz, sandstone and limestone clasts are all easily recognizable. Largest clast is about two inches (five centimeters) across. Image copyright by iStockPhoto and Ivan Ivanov.

Sand from Skeleton Beach in Namibia contains rounded and polished pink-and-red garnet.



Pressure solution at work in a clastic rock. While material dissolves at places where grains are in contact, material crystallizes from the solution (as cement) in open pore spaces. This means there is a net flow of material from areas under high stress to those under low stress. As a result, the rock becomes more compact and harder. Loose sand can become sandstone in this way

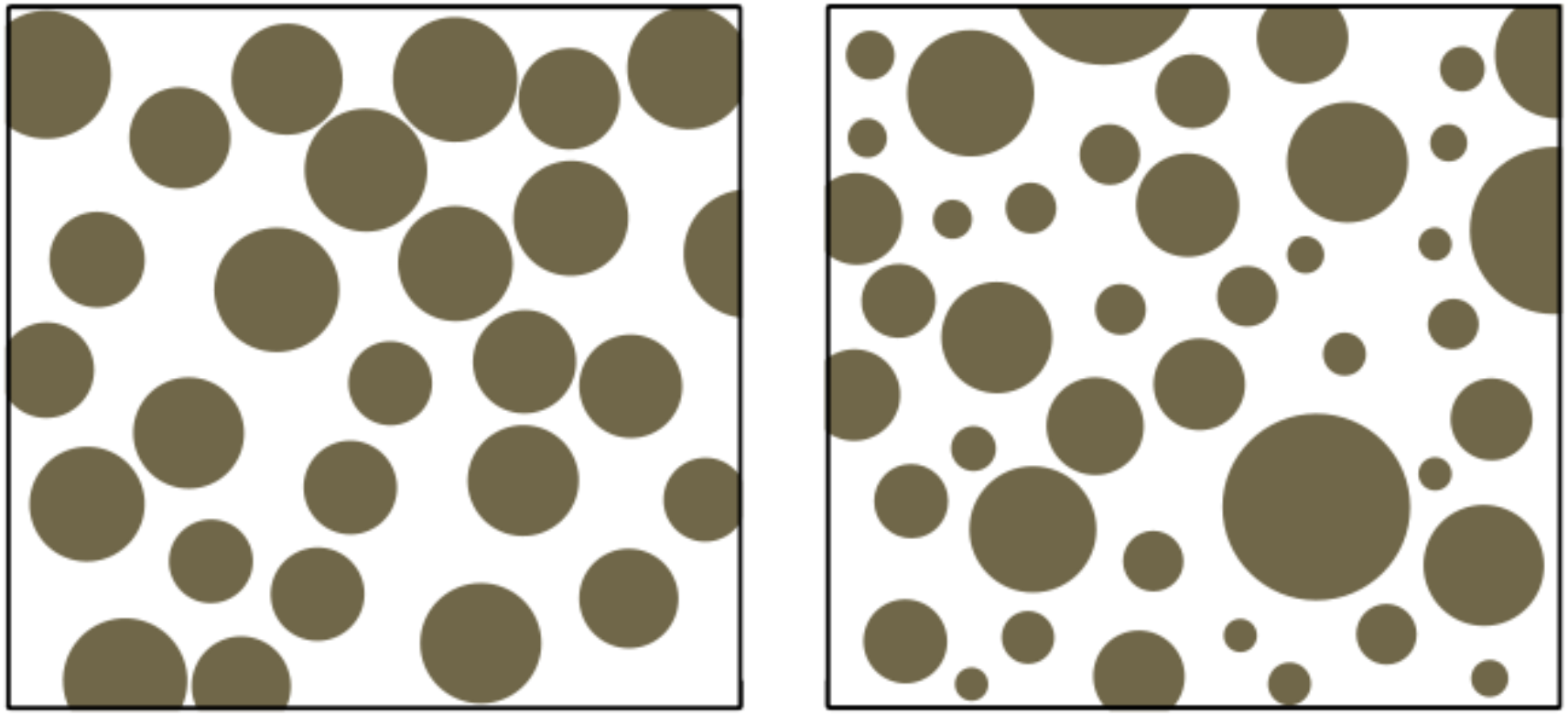


Diagram to illustrate the concept of sorting in sedimentology. Left box shows well sorted grains, right shows badly sorted grains.

Chert: This specimen of chert is about two inches (five centimeters) across. It displays conchoidal fracture and has broken to produce sharp edges.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2.0 cm

A piece of a banded iron formation, a type of rock that consists of alternating layers with iron(III) oxide (red) andiron(II) oxide (grey). BIFs were mostly formed during the Precambrian, when the atmosphere was not yet rich in oxygen. Moories Group, Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa

The Permian through Jurassic stratigraphy of the Colorado Plateau area of southeastern Utah that makes up much of the famous prominent rock formations in protected areas such as Capitol Reef National Park and Canyonlands National Park. From top to bottom: Rounded tan domes of the Navajo Sandstone, layered red Kayenta Formation, cliff-forming, vertically jointed, red Wingate Sandstone, slope-forming, purplish Chinle Formation, layered, lighter-redMoenkopi Formation, and white, layered Cutler Formation sandstone. Picture from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah.

Lower Antelope Canyon was carved out of the surrounding sandstone by both mechanical weathering and chemical weathering. Wind, sand, and water from flash flooding are the primary weathering agents.
Antelope Canyon is a slot canyon in the American Southwest. It is located on Navajoland east of Page, Arizona.

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Sedimentation animation

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Burrows in a turbidite, made by crustaceans, San Vincente Formation (early Eocene) of the Ainsa Basin, southernforeland of the Pyrenees