

Permeable and impermeable rocks

Put a small lump of sandstone in some coloured water in a shallow dish. Rest another lump of sandstone on top (Fig. 34). Watch the water as it is soaked up by the sandstone.

- What happens when the water gets to the 'join' between the two lumps?

Now set up the same arrangement again using two more lumps of sandstone but this time put a thin piece of shale or slate in between them (Fig. 35).

- What happens when the water gets to the shale or slate?
- Can you explain why the results of the two experiments are different?

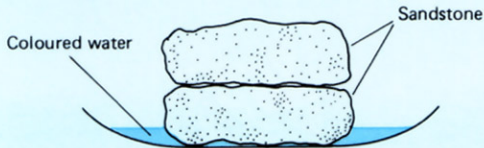


Fig. 34

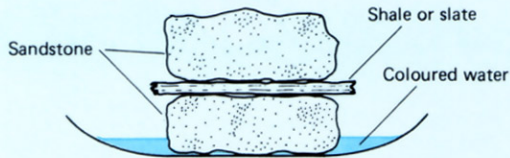


Fig. 35