

Short Essay: Sand Dune Formation

Directions: Type your answer to the question in the space below the question. Then compare your answer to the sample answer.

Questions

1. The picture shows sandstone, the sedimentary rock that forms when sand particles are lithified together over time. What caused the banding that you see in some of the rock layers?

2. What can landscape features like this tell us about past climate?

Sample Answers

1. The bands are cross-beds. They represent different stages of sand deposition in a sand dune.

2. They show us that the area in the picture was once dominated by eolian processes. By dating the rock, we can know when that was. Also, by studying the shape of the cross beds, we can know which direction the wind was blowing.