Trail of Time
Walking Guide

Grand Canyon National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Find these markers and find these views along the 2 km (1.2 mile) timeline trail. Each one represents a key time in this region's geologic history.

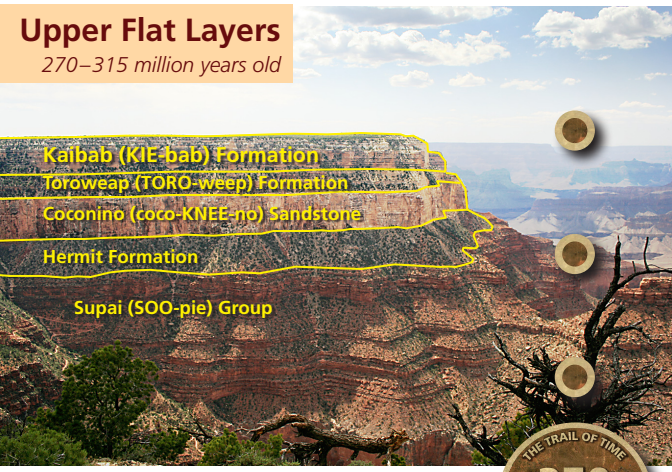
Yavapai Observation Station and the Park geology brochure have additional information about all the Grand Canyon rock layers.

Canyon Carving
last 6 million years

THE TRAIL OF TIME
6
MILLION
YEARS AGO
A GEOLOGY TIMELINE

Find the **Colorado River** deep in the canyon. This mighty river has carved the Grand Canyon in "only" the last six million years.

Upper Flat Layers
270–315 million years old



THE TRAIL OF TIME
270
MILLION
YEARS AGO
A GEOLOGY TIMELINE

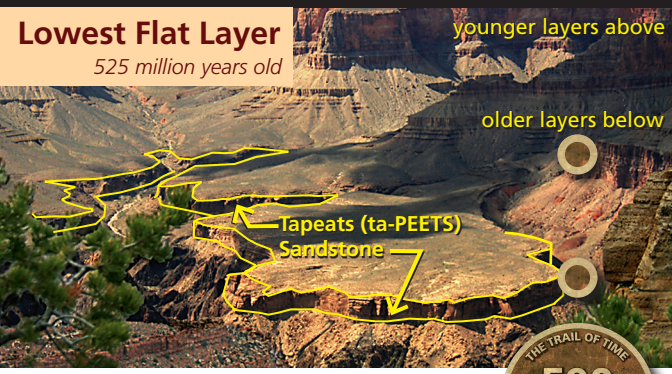
You are standing on the top rock layer, called the **Kaibab Formation**. It was deposited 270 million years ago in a shallow sea. From this point you can see lower (older) layers too.

The Trail of Time is a joint project of Grand Canyon National Park, the University of New Mexico, and the National Science Foundation

Trail of Time
Walking Guide

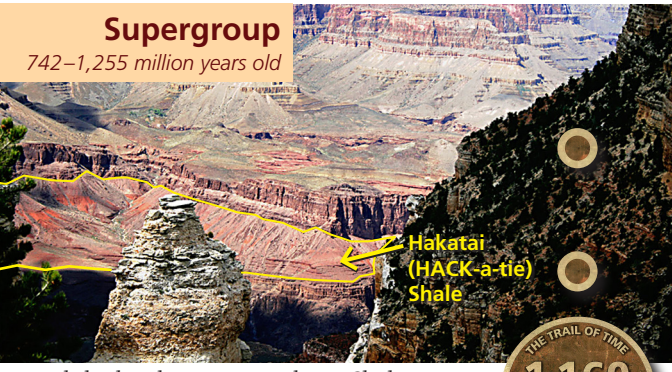
Grand Canyon National Park
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lowest Flat Layer
525 million years old



Your best view of the **Tapeats Sandstone** is from marker 590. But it is actually 525 million years old. It is the oldest of the *horizontal* rock layers, but not the oldest rock in the canyon.

Supergroup
742–1,255 million years old



Find the bright orange Hakatai Shale. It belongs to the **Grand Canyon Supergroup.** These layers were tilted and partly eroded before the flat layers were deposited on top.

Oldest Rocks
1,660–1,840 million years old

Find the dark **Basement Rocks** deep in the canyon. They are among the oldest rocks in the Southwest: 1,660 to 1,840 million (1.66 to 1.84 billion) years old.