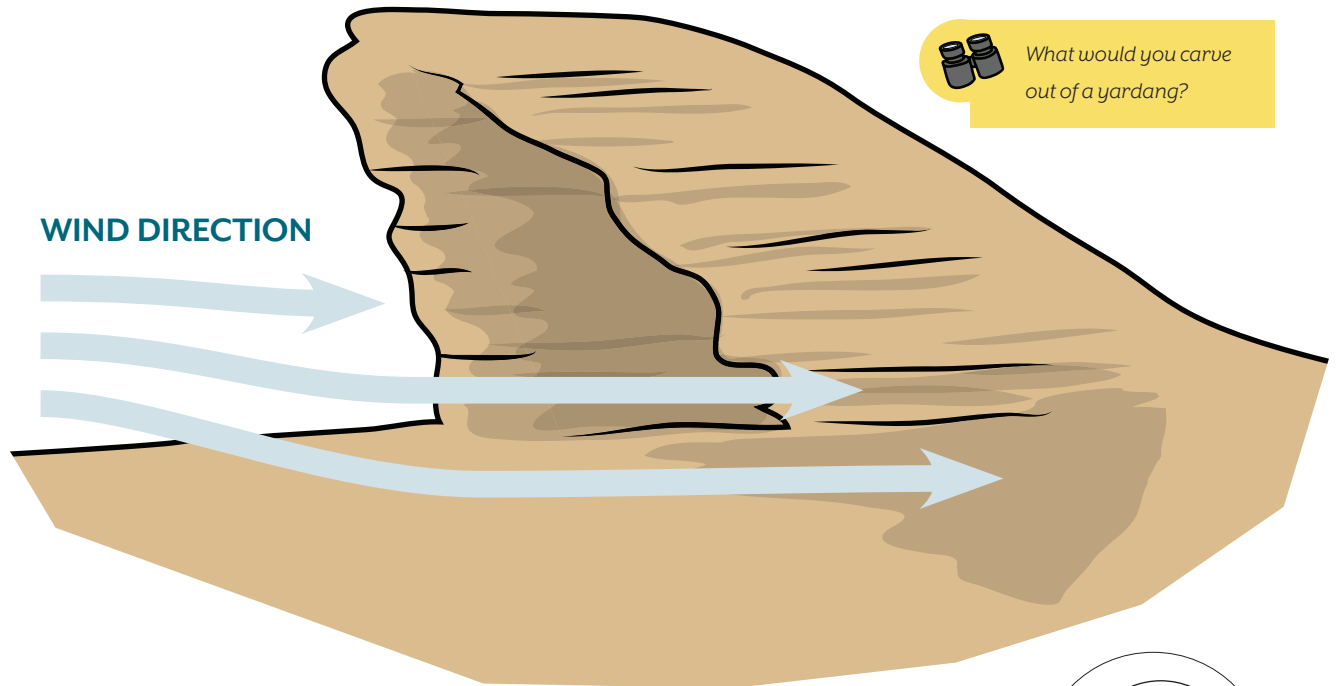


Yardangs



Yardangs are rock formations that are mostly found in very dry deserts. They are formed by steady wind erosion, and they often resemble the bows of overturned ships sticking out of the ground.



What would you carve out of a yardang?



Yardangs are sometimes called "mud lions," and some geologists speculate that the Great Sphinx in Egypt was made from a large yardang. What do you think?

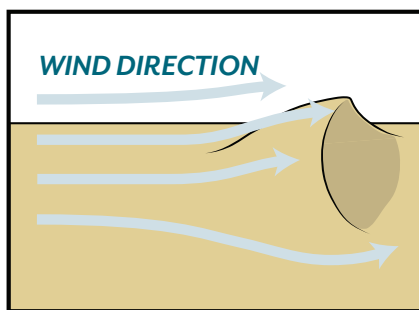
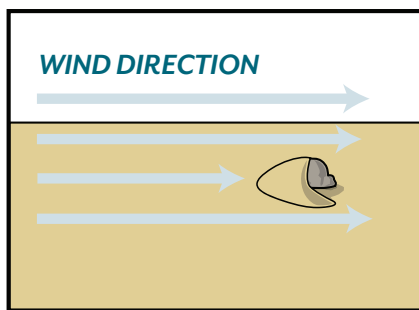
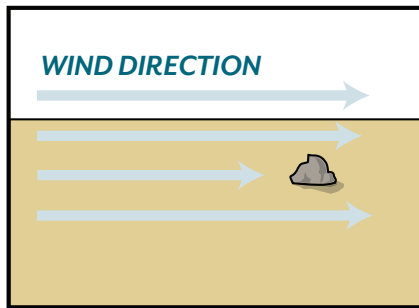


Dunes



A **dune** is a hill of sand that has been built up by the wind or by water. Dunes can come in many different shapes and sizes, and are found mostly in arid deserts or near sandy beaches.

Dune Formation



A dune begins with a “seed,” an object on the ground that the sand grains can collect around. Sand is lifted by the wind, and carried a short distance before falling back to the ground. The “seed” makes it more likely that sand will be deposited in that spot, because it disrupts the wind, causing it to drop sand grains.

As more sand grains are deposited, the budding dune becomes more of an obstacle for the wind to overcome, causing it to deposit even more sand. Eventually, the “seed” becomes engulfed in sand.

A dune can continue to grow and even migrate! Sand dunes are known for their ability to move and engulf roads, trees and even entire forests. A dune’s migration is caused by sand being lifted and blown up the **windward** side of the dune and back down the **leeward** side, also called the **slip face**, landing at the edge of the dune.



Many unlikely objects can act as a seed for a sand dune to form around, including fence posts, plants, rocks and sticks. There have even been reports of dunes beginning to form around ant hills!

Windward: the side that faces into the wind.

Leeward: the side that faces away from the wind.

Slipface: also called the leeward side, the slipface may have got its name because of its steep angle, which can cause sand (and anything trying to walk on the dune) to slip down the slope!