

Middle Buntsandstein (approx. 249–246 million years ago)

Buntsandstein - Red and Grey-Green

During the time of the Buntsandstein, a dry and warm climate prevailed in our region. Northern Germany lay at the margin of a shallow sea known as the Germanic Basin. Rivers flowing from the southern mainland areas regularly transported sand and fine sediments into this basin.

As a result, red-brown and grey-green claystones, siltstones, and sandstones were formed. Their colours indicate the amount of oxygen present during deposition: red reflects oxidised iron, while green points to oxygen-poor conditions. This is also the origin of the name Buntsandstein (“coloured sandstone”). Because these rocks weather easily, they are now only rarely exposed at the surface.



The excavation in the red-brown and grey-green claystones and siltstones of the Middle Buntsandstein demonstrates the rapid progression of weathering.



Did you know? - Read the stone!

Take a close look at the Buntsandstein: can you spot different colours or layers? Each layer is like a page in a very old book. Depending on their colour and structure, you can tell whether conditions were dry, moist, or temporarily underwater in the past. Which colour dominates here – more red or more grey-green?