

Ranger Minute Script
How Grand Canyon Formed - The Grand Canyon Dance – Andy Pearce

Greetings everybody from Grand Canyon, my name is Ranger Andy and this is a Ranger Minute.

Grand Canyon has lots of big stories, one of those is how did Grand Canyon form? Because that's what people want to know. Once they've ooh'ed and aah'ed at this incredible sight, they want to know "how did it get here?"

Well, we've got a fun, exciting way to help you remember how it got here. Today, I have the Grand Canyon Elementary School third graders with me, and they're going to help you learn the Grand Canyon Dance, the Grand Canyon Rockarena. This is a dance to help you remember, to help you learn, how Grand Canyon formed.

Are all of you ready? (cheers from students)

These guys have been practicing this dance, they know it. Before we start the dance, how did Grand Canyon get here? First, we had to have all the rocks deposited, then we had to have this whole area uplifted 7,000 feet into the sky. Last, we had to get the power of water in the form of the Colorado River, and rain, and snow, and ice to carve this canyon out.

Now, we're going to do the dance to show you the whole process. OK, again, are you ready?
(Cheers from the students)

(Beginning of dance script)

Alright, here we go. First of all we're going to start off with the oldest rocks down at the bottom, that hard metamorphic rock. So let's get squished under heat and pressure. We're getting metamorphosed, and as we're getting squished, we're getting cracked and faulted, and cracked and faulted. And through those cracks we're getting magma oozing, and it's flowing then it freezes.

On top of all that we get limestone, sandstone, shale; ancient oceans, ancient deserts, ancient beaches, ancient swamps; limestone, sandstone, shale; ancient oceans, ancient deserts, ancient beaches, ancient swamps.

And then look out, the North American plate is going to collide with the Pacific plate. Collision...the two plates colliding and we get uplift. One thousand, two thousand, three thousand, four thousand, five thousand, six thousand, seven thousand feet into the sky. We have the Colorado Plateau.

But then look out, the next powerful force, the Colorado River, and the river cuts down, the walls fall in, the river cuts down, the walls fall in, the river cuts down, the walls fall in, and we end up with ... Grand Canyon! (students cheering and clapping).

(end of dance script)

This is Ranger Andy, and this has been a Ranger Minute. Thanks everybody, again Grand Canyon Elementary School third graders. Grand Canyon Rocks!...Everybody say that (students – "Grand Canyon Rocks!")