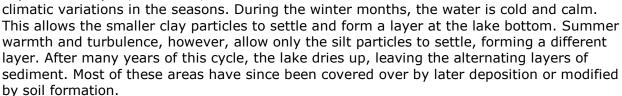
## What is a Claydog?

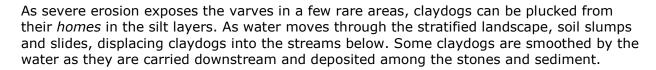
A claydog is a concretion of silt, clay, and calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) precipitate that forms around a nucleus of organic material. The exact formation process is not known. Occasionally found among the layered deposits of clays and silts left by a glacial lake. – claystones, – mudpuppies

The organic nucleus that is presumed to spark the formation process disintegrates with time, leaving only the calcareous structure. Because this is much harder than the surrounding materials, the dogs were originally called *claystones* by the early settlers.

Claystones were later named claydogs by workers at brickyards who found these hard formations to be a nuisance when molding bricks.

Sediments from glacial lakes are deposited in layers, or *varves*, due to





Claydogs can sometimes have high iron content. When oxidation occurs, these dogs rust, turning a dark shade of brown. They have recently been named *dirty dogs*.

