



STRATFORD CLIFFS WORKSHEET

The Stratford Hall Cliffs are made up of mud that was left behind when the oceans rose and spilled over the land. Sea levels rise every so often throughout Earth's history. When the Earth goes through a period with temperatures warmer than normal, it melts some of the ice at the north pole! This ice melt flows into the oceans and raises the sea levels.

Eventually temperatures got colder again and much of the ocean water froze into the polar ice caps. The mud that was left behind as the ocean levels drop becomes new land. This is what occurred, over four times in 28 million years, at the Stratford cliffs.

The layers of the cliffs are split into four different parts, named for the ocean formation that deposited them.

At the water's edge is the **Calvert Formation**, the oldest formation, which dates to around 16 million years old. Fossils like the crushing plate teeth of a stingray, and various whale bones can be found here.

Above the Calvert Formation is the **Choptank Formation**, the second oldest layer. You can find shark teeth here, including megladon teeth. Megladon's were the largest sharks to ever exist!

The third layer is called the **St. Mary's Formation** and holds a variety of animals, including several from the mollusca family, like clam shells and the Virginia state fossil Chesapeake jeffersonius.

The very top layer is the youngest, known as the **Bacon's Castle Formation**. In this formation fossilized footprints of many land animals can be found here, including a flying squirrel, a jaguar and a short-faced bear.

BELOW ARE THE NAMES OF THE FORMATIONS, CUT AND PASTE THE CORRECT FORMATION ONTO THE STRATFORD CLIFFS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

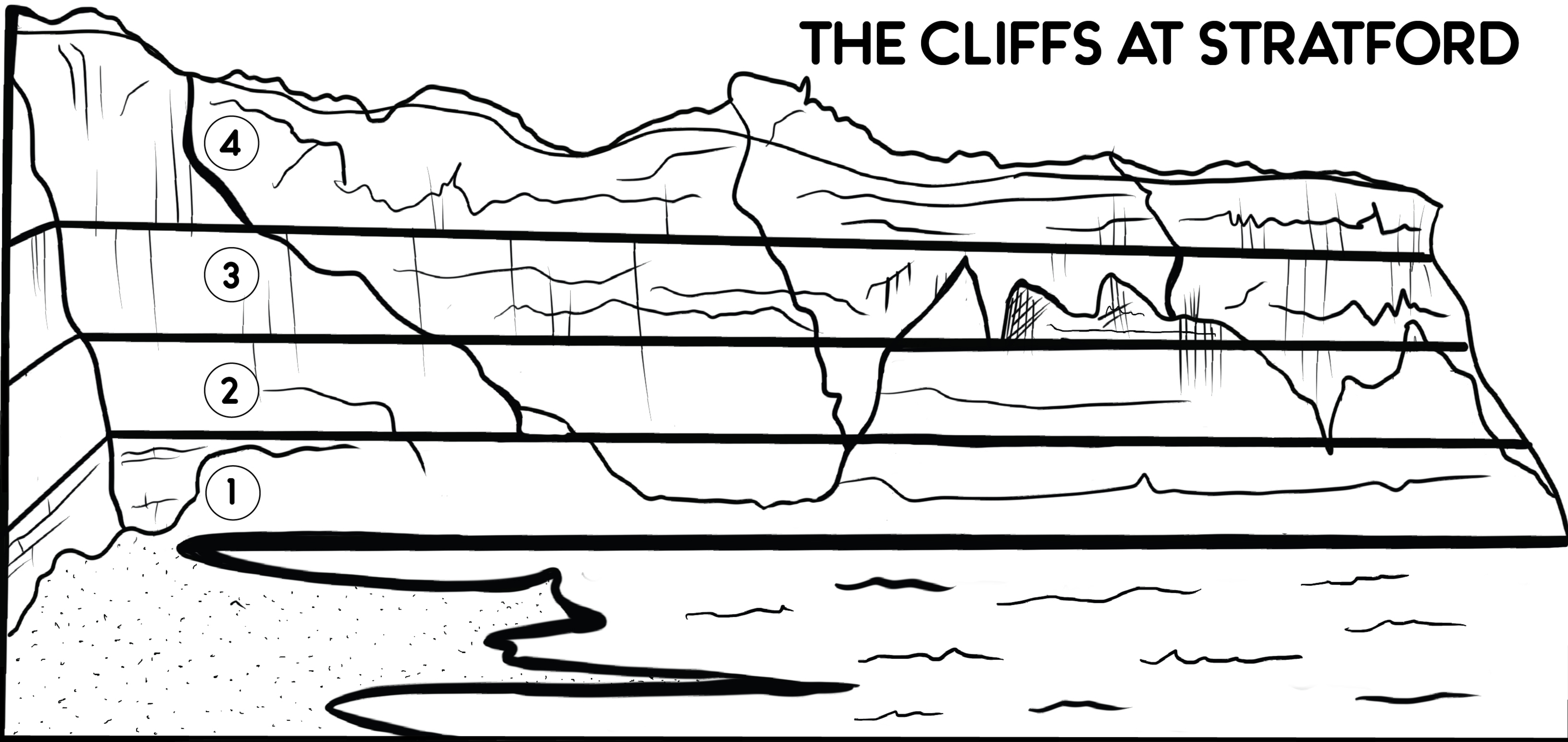
CALVERT

ST MARY'S

BACON'S CASTLE

CHOPTANK

THE CLIFFS AT STRATFORD



COLOR IN THE PAGE, LABEL THE FORMATIONS AND THEN MATCH THE FOSSILS BELOW TO THE CORRECT FORMATION.

