Directions for Core Construction

Materials:

Five small boxes (we used small, round favor boxes found in the wedding section of a craft store; a stacking screw-top tackle box or jewelry bead holder would also work)

Larger container (helpful if the core is in separate pieces; we used a favor canister found at a craft store)

Five colors of cardstock paper, one sheet each
Scissors
Sticker-labels or tape
Permanent marker
Colored pencils or markers (optional)

Directions:

1. Print diatom pictures below on different colored paper. Color-coordinating diatoms to the sediment layers will help keep clean-up organized. The diatoms printable as shown are about 3 cm tall.

2. Cut out the diatoms.

3. The small boxes represent sediment layers. With permanent marker, write numbers 1-5 on sticker labels or tape. Mark each label with marker or colored pencil in the corresponding color of the diatoms it will hold to color-coordinate the diatoms to the correct sediment layer. Place each label on a small box.

4. Put the diatoms in their corresponding box. There should be 20 diatoms in each layer.

5. Stack the boxes to create the core. Layer 1 is the most recent, layer 5 is the oldest.

6. The larger container can be the corer tube.

Finished!
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5