Unit 09 GeoMation: The Cake

It's the weekend, and you're baking a cake for the game for the big game. And so you put down a layer of cake like this. And then it's gotta be for the Penn State game. So then you're going to put in a little blue icing, so it's more enjoyable. And you're going to make another layer cake on top of that, still sitting there. Boy, you're a good baker. It's really very impressive.

And we'll put some more Penn State blue icing in the middle. And then you put down one more layer of cake to make the top of the thing. And wow, this is getting to be fairly serious when all is said and done. And then you're going to ice the top of that, and wow, isn't that beautiful.

And then you want to put some candles on. It's going to be Wisconsin game, and Wisconsin's going to get burned. So you better put on some Wisconsin red candles, and they have a little wick sitting out the top of them like that. And then you're carrying the cake across the floor and your big dog comes up and takes a gimungous bite out of your cake, which doesn't necessarily make you entirely happy. And so now your cake is going to look something more like this with this big hole out of it. And the hole goes all the way down, something like that.

Oh dear, what a mess the dog made out of the cake. And you're really very, very unhappy about what your dog did to it because you were carrying the cake while this happened, and you happen to know that if you're carrying the cake while it happens that you may lose your grip, and the cake turns upside-down, which is now a real mess, and the candles gets scrunched, and so they're no longer sticking down the way they're supposed to be. They're actually sort of sticking off to the side the way they get bent over.

Now, if you were to see this, if you were to find this cake on the floor, you would have absolutely no trouble telling what happened, and the sequence of events in which they happened. In the same way, a geologist faced with something such as a rock viewed edge on that has some mud cracks in it like this, there's a crack, says oh, this rock is right-side up, it has not been turned over because we know that when mud cracks, that the cracks go down in the rock, not up.

In the same sense, if the geologist was faced with some sort of a footprint, and let's make a dinosaur footprint here, if you would like to. Do, de-do, de-do. Here's the big footprint. OK. And the footprint is stuck down in the rock, something like that. And so you can see this is how it might have happened somehow. And that's not the world's finest footprint drawing, but you get the idea what we're trying to do. That has been shoved down into a rock so there's a big hole here where the footprint was made.

If you were to happen to find that footprint, and you're going to have to find that footprint as being upside-down, as we can make it very easily with the foot vertically, you wouldn't know that. And so geologists do that. They can put things in order in the same way you that could look a that squished cake and put it in order.