

How Can Rocks Be Classified?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

rock [RAHK] a solid in nature that is made of one or more minerals

If people say, “She’s my rock,” they mean that the person is steady, that she doesn’t change, that you can count on her. A *rock* in nature also seems steady and unchanging.

igneous rock [IG•nee•uhs RAHK] rock formed when magma, or melted rock, cools and hardens

Igneous and *ignite* begin in the same way. Ignite means “make burn.” *Igneous rock* forms when the tremendous heat of an erupting volcano causes rock to ignite and melt.

sedimentary rock [sed•uh•MEN•tuh•ree RAHK] rock formed when deposited sediment becomes cemented together

Sedimentary begins with the same sound as *sediment*, *sand*, *silt* and *squeeze*.

Sedimentary rock forms when sediment made of sand and silt gets squeezed and becomes cemented together.

fossil [FAHS•uhl] trace of a dead plant or animal, such as a bone or a shell

The vowel sound in rock is the same as the sound in the first part of *fossil*. Most *fossils* are found in rock.

metamorphic rock [met•uh•MAWR•fik RAHK] rock that is changed by heat and pressure deep in Earth

Metamorphic and *metamorphosis* sound alike.

A frog goes through metamorphosis, a big change. *Metamorphic rocks* are rocks that have changed from one form to another.

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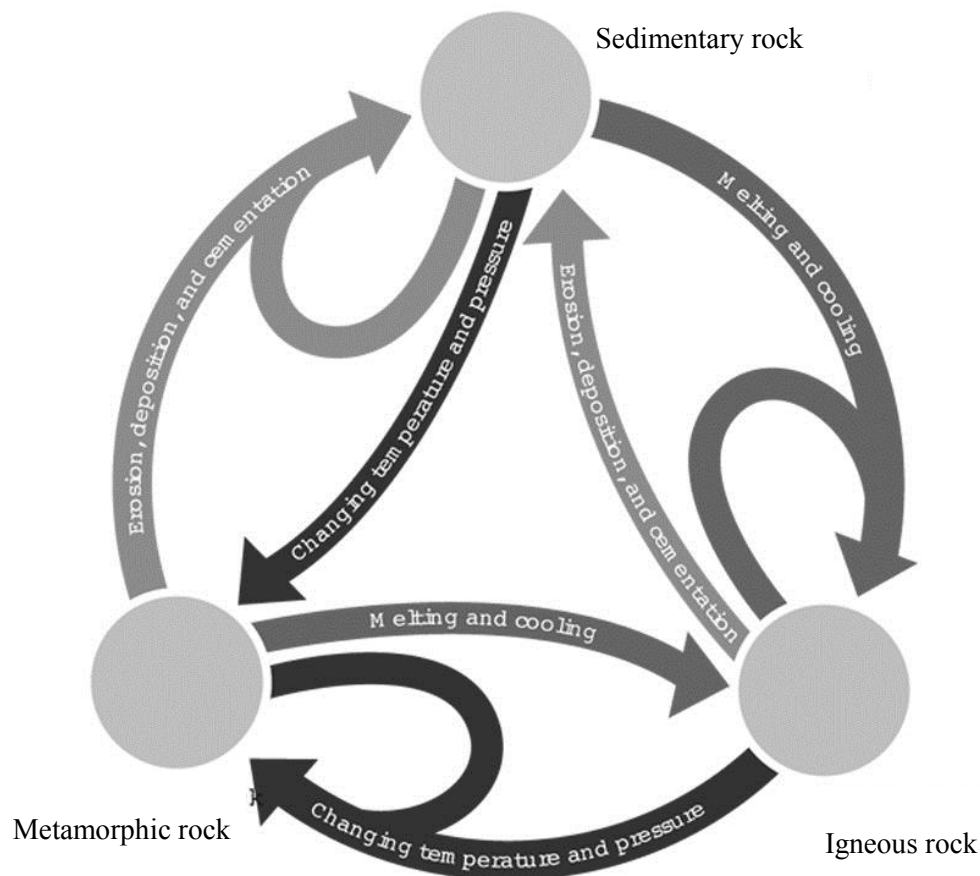
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rock cycle [RAHK SY•kuhl] the continuous process in which one type of rock changes into another type of rock

Circle and cycle begin with the same sound. The *rock cycle* is a kind of circle in which one kind of rock changes into another kind and another and another.



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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. A rock is a solid in nature that is made of one or more minerals.
2. Rocks are classified or grouped according to how they form.
3. Igneous rock forms when melted rock, called magma, cools and hardens. Igneous rock may form after a volcano erupts.
4. Sedimentary rock forms when air and water in the spaces between sediment gets squeezed out. Over time, these sediments are cemented together to form rock.
5. Sedimentary rock may contain traces of dead plant or animal parts called fossils.
6. Metamorphic rock forms deep in Earth, when heat or pressure changes rock.
7. Pressure that causes mountains to form may also cause mountain rock to change.
8. Most of the rocks on Earth's surface are sedimentary.
9. Many products, including toothpaste, cement, and iron, come from rocks.
10. Over a long period of time, one type of rock may change into another type of rock as part of the rock cycle.