

Name _____

Rock On! Exploring the Wonders of the Rock Cycle



Have you ever wondered if a rock can change from one type to another? Well, you're in for a fascinating journey through the world of rocks as we explore the rock cycle! Rocks might seem like they're stuck in one form forever, but the truth is, they can transform and go on exciting adventures of their own.

The Rock Cycle - A Natural Adventure

Imagine a rock as a superhero, going through an incredible adventure known as the rock cycle. This cycle consists of three main types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Each type has its unique characteristics and can change into another type through a series of natural processes.

Igneous Rocks - Born from Fire

Our adventure begins with igneous rocks. These rocks are like superheroes forged in the heart of a volcano. When molten rock, called magma, cools and hardens, it forms igneous rocks. Think of them as rocks born from fire. They can be found deep within the Earth's crust or on the surface as volcanic rocks. Examples include granite and basalt.

Sedimentary Rocks - Building Blocks of Nature

As our igneous superhero rocks face the forces of erosion and weathering, they start to break down into tiny particles. These particles, like grains of sand and bits of clay, get carried away by wind, water, or ice. Over time, these particles settle and accumulate, forming sedimentary rocks. Sedimentary rocks are like nature's building blocks, constructed layer by layer. They include rocks like sandstone, limestone, and shale.

Metamorphic Rocks - A Transformation Tale

Now, imagine our sedimentary rocks facing immense pressure and heat deep within the Earth. This is where the magic happens! Sedimentary rocks can transform into metamorphic rocks through a process called metamorphism. During this transformation, the rocks change their appearance, texture, and even their minerals. Some examples of metamorphic rocks are marble, slate, and schist.

The Journey Continues

The rock cycle doesn't stop here; it's an endless adventure. Metamorphic rocks can eventually melt and become magma again, restarting the cycle. Similarly, sedimentary rocks can be exposed to heat and pressure and transform into metamorphic rocks. The possibilities are endless in the world of rocks!