

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Rock Cycle: A Journey Through Earth's Rock Transformations

### Short Answer Key

1. Igneous rocks form when molten rock (magma or lava) cools and solidifies. Examples include basalt (volcanic igneous) and granite (intrusive igneous).
2. Sedimentary rocks transform into metamorphic rocks due to heat and pressure deep within the Earth, changing their mineral composition and structure.
3. Common forces of weathering and erosion include wind, water, ice, and chemical processes. They break down rocks and shape the Earth's surface through processes like erosion, abrasion, and dissolution.
4. Sedimentary rocks often contain fossils that provide valuable insights into past life forms, environmental conditions, and the history of the Earth's surface.
5. Marble is an example of a metamorphic rock, originating from limestone. It differs by having a crystalline structure and a more vibrant appearance.

