

Name _____

Mineral Magic: The Essential Role of Minerals in the Rock Cycle

Short Answer Key

1. Minerals in sedimentary rocks accumulate and cement together to form sediments, which, over time, compact and harden into sedimentary rocks.
2. Igneous rocks are primarily composed of minerals that crystallize from magma or lava, sedimentary rocks contain minerals that accumulate and cement together to form sediments, and metamorphic rocks form from the recrystallization of minerals within existing rocks.
3. Minerals in a rock can provide clues about its geological history, such as the conditions under which it formed, the presence of past environments (e.g., marine or terrestrial), and the presence of valuable resources (e.g., ores and gemstones).
4. Examples of minerals commonly found in each type of rock: quartz (igneous), calcite (sedimentary), and garnet (metamorphic).
5. Minerals are considered the building blocks of rocks because they are the individual, naturally occurring, inorganic solids with unique chemical compositions that come together to create rocks through various geological processes.

