

The Rock Cycle

The rock cycle is a continuous process through which rocks are formed, broken down, and transformed over time. It begins with **igneous rocks**, which form when molten magma cools and solidifies. These rocks can then be broken into smaller pieces through weathering and erosion, eventually becoming **sediments**. Over time, layers of sediments are compacted and cemented together to form **sedimentary rocks**. With increased heat and pressure, these rocks can change into **metamorphic rocks**. If metamorphic rocks melt, they become magma again, completing the cycle. This ongoing process shows how Earth's materials are constantly recycled.

The rock cycle is a _____ process where rocks are formed, _____, and transformed.

_____ rocks form when magma cools and _____.
_____ and erosion break rocks into _____.

Sediments are compacted and cemented to form _____ rocks.

Compaction and cementation are terms for the process of _____.

Heat and _____ can change sedimentary rocks into _____ rocks.

When metamorphic rocks melt, they become _____.

The rock cycle shows how Earth's _____ are constantly _____.

Sedimentary rocks are formed from layers of _____.

_____ and erosion are responsible for breaking down existing rocks.

When rocks are subjected to heat and _____, they may become metamorphic.

If rocks melt, they turn into _____, which can cool to form _____ rocks.

Rocks can change from one _____ to another over time.

The process of compacting and _____ turns sediments into sedimentary rocks.

Igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic are the three main types of _____.

Metamorphic rocks do not melt, but they do _____ under heat and pressure.

The cycle begins and ends with the formation and melting of _____.