

Earth Rocks!

Earth is made of rocks. They can be small enough to fit in your hand or as big as a house. Rocks have different colors and textures. You know a rock when you see one—but can you identify the three basic groups of rocks?

Rock Groups

Earth is a giant rock-making machine. Rocks form, break apart, and then form again. Read about the three groups of rocks, and look at examples of each.

Sedimentary

Sedimentary rocks begin as **sediment** at the bottom of rivers, lakes, and oceans. Sediment is made of small pieces of sand, clay, and shells. The weight of water presses down on the sediment until it becomes hard.



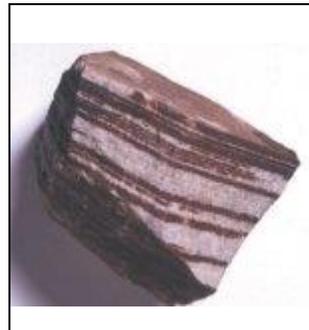
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Limestone



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Conglomerate



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Sandstone

Igneous

Igneous rocks are created by heat. They start off as **magma**, which is hot, melted rock deep within a volcano. When magma cools and hardens, igneous rock forms. Igneous rock also forms when **lava** cools. Lava is magma that erupts from a volcano.



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Diorite



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Obsidian

Metamorphic

Metamorphic rocks start as igneous or sedimentary rocks. Heat and heavy pressure cause the rock to undergo a **metamorphosis**, or a change. The new rock often has a different color.



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Eclogite



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Marble



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Slate

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How many groups of rocks does the passage name?

- A one
- B two
- C three

2. What does the author describe in the passage?

- A how different groups of rocks are made
- B why there are only three different rock groups
- C which group of rocks is the most common on Earth

3. Metamorphic rocks are rocks that were previously a different type of rock. What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A A metamorphosis is a kind of change that something undergoes.
- B Metamorphic rocks start as igneous or sedimentary rocks.
- C Examples of metamorphic rocks are slate and marble.

4. Read the following sentences: "Sedimentary rocks begin as sediment at the bottom of rivers, lakes, and oceans. Sediment is made of small pieces of sand, clay, and shells. The weight of water presses down on the sediment until it becomes hard."

Based on this information, what can you conclude about sedimentary rocks?

- A Sedimentary rocks are harder than igneous rocks.
- B Some sedimentary rocks have shells in them.
- C All sedimentary rocks are found far from water.

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks
- B rocks that are created from lava or magma
- C rocks that are created from sediment

6. Read the following sentences: "When magma cools and hardens, igneous rock forms. Igneous rock also forms when lava cools. Lava is magma that **erupts** from a volcano."

As used in this sentence, what does the word "**erupts**" most nearly mean?

- A buries something
- B slowly drips
- C comes out

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Metamorphic rocks form _____ heat and heavy pressure cause igneous or sedimentary rocks to undergo metamorphosis.

- A because
- B but
- C so

8. What are sedimentary rocks made from?

9. How are igneous rocks created?

10. What role does heat play in the formation of rocks?
