

Informational Sheet for Teachers

igneous rock

When molten rock cools, igneous rock is formed. Intrusive rocks are igneous rocks that have formed (and cooled slowly) beneath the surface of the Earth. Extrusive rocks are igneous rocks that have formed (and cooled more quickly) at the surface of the Earth (like obsidian). Some igneous rocks include granite, obsidian (volcanic glass), basalt, and andesite porphyry.



sedimentary rock

Sedimentary rock is rock that has formed from sediment, like sand, mud, small pieces of rocks. Over long periods of time, these small pieces of debris are compressed (squeezed) as they are buried under more and more layers of sediment that piles up on top of it. Eventually, they are compressed into sedimentary rock. It is made of strata, or layers. The layers that are farther down in the Earth are older than the top layers. Most fossils are found in sedimentary rock. [sandstone](#), [shale](#), and [limestone](#) are sedimentary rocks.



metamorphic rock

Metamorphic rocks are compacted by pressure and heat from deep inside the earth.