

Science | Year 3 | Rocks | Types of Rocks | Lesson 1



Rocks

What are rocks?

What do you already know about rocks?

Are rocks alive? How do you know?

Why are there rocks everywhere?

How do rocks form?

Look carefully at the photographs on following slides and spot the rocks.

Spot the Rocks Countryside

Photo courtesy of Jimmy Harris (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Spot the Rocks Chalk Cliffs



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Spot the Rocks Muddy Fields

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Spot the Rocks Town Centre



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Spot the Rocks Granite Peak



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Spot the Rocks Volcano



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Spot the Rocks Mountain



Photo courtesy of Doug Scortegagna (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence – attribution

Spot the Rocks Pebble Beach



Natural Rocks

There are **three types** of naturally occurring rocks.



Igneous



Sedimentary



Metamorphic

Natural Rocks

Far under the ground, the temperature is hot enough to melt the rock into a liquid. This is called molten rock. Igneous rocks are formed from this molten rock in two ways.

Intrusive Igneous Rocks:



Molten rock that remains underground is called magma. When magma cools and hardens it becomes a type of intrusive igneous rock.

(Intrusive = internal = inside)

Extrusive Igneous Rocks:



Molten rock that comes out of the ground is called lava. When lava cools and hardens it becomes a type of extrusive igneous rock. (Extrusive = external = outside)

Natural Rocks Sedimentary Rock

Sedimentary rock forms under the sea. The following illustrates the process:

1) As a result of weathering and erosion, bits of rock end up in lakes and rivers. Rivers transport bits of rock and deposit them on the bottom of the sea. This process is called **sedimentation**.

2) With time, more layers (strata) pile up and press down on the lower layers of rock. This process is called **compaction**.

3) Over time, water is pushed out from these layers and the process of **cementation** occurs. This is when salt compounds glue or cement the bits of rock together so they form a solid layer.

Natural Rocks Metamorphic Rock

Metamorphic rocks don't just form from being near magma they can also be formed from Earth movements which can cause rocks to be deeply buried or squeezed. This means the rocks are heated and put under immense pressure which causes the minerals they contain to be changed chemically. Collision of tectonic plates can also result in the formation of metamorphic rock too.



This illustration shows how the igneous rock near magma is being heated and changed.



This illustration shows how the sedimentary rock near magma is being heated and changed.