

Grouping Rocks

Types of Rocks



What are the three types of rocks? What causes them to be different?

Igneous



Formed from magma or lava.



Sedimentary



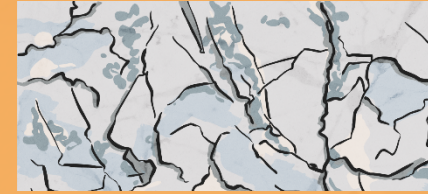
Formed under the sea as a result of sedimentation,



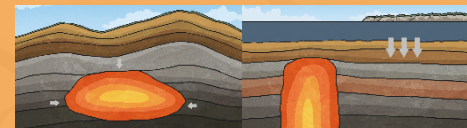
compaction and cementation.



Metamorphic



Metamorphic rocks are igneous or sedimentary or rocks that change chemically due to proximity to magma, huge pressure from burial or changes in tectonic plates.

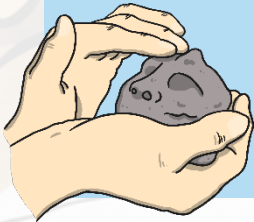


Properties of Rocks

The following are a list of common properties of rocks:

Hard or Soft

Some rocks, like granite, are incredibly hard and can only be cut or split with specialist tools. On the other hand, clay is soft and can be easily moulded.



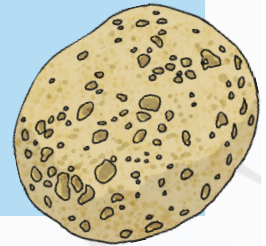
Durable

Rocks that are durable are more resistant to weathering (being eroded – that is broken down – by rain and wind). More durable rocks, such as marble, have been chosen to create buildings and for outside use for this reason.



Permeable or Impermeable

If a rock is permeable, for example pumice, this means it allows water to pass through it. Rocks that are impermeable do not allow water to pass through.



Density

Density measures how 'bulky' the rock is (how tightly packed the molecules are), not how heavy. Density can be checked by testing the buoyancy (whether they float in water) of rocks. High density rocks sink whereas low density rocks float.

