

Name \_\_\_\_\_

period \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Write your notes  
about what you are  
reading in this space.

## Science Shorts -6

### How do rocks form and change?

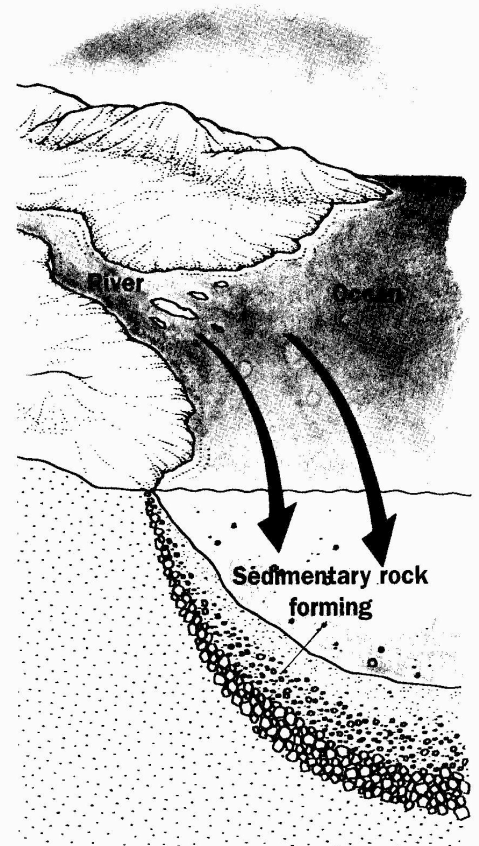
Rocks form in different ways. One kind of rock forms when melted rock from inside Earth cools. This kind of rock is called **igneous** rock. In places where there are many volcanoes, igneous rock covers much of the ground.

New rock also forms when small pieces of other rocks or parts of dead plants or animals are pressed together very hard. This kind of rock is called **sedimentary** rock.

Sedimentary rock can form under water. The moving water of a river carries bits of rock and other things. When the river reaches the ocean, the things it was carrying fall to the ocean bottom. Seashells also fall to the bottom. Over time, more and more rock and other bits are added. After these things are pressed together for millions of years, they form sedimentary rock. If you look at a piece of sedimentary rock, you might see pebbles, sand, or even seashells in it.

Earthquakes can force rocks deep into Earth, where they are squeezed hard. This changes rock. So does the heat inside Earth. When rock is changed this way, it is called **metamorphic** rock.

Rocks can change from one kind to another in other ways. Sedimentary rock may fall into a crack in Earth's surface during an earthquake. Inside Earth, the rock melts. If the melted rock comes up through a volcano and cools, it becomes igneous rock. Pieces of the igneous rock may fall into a stream where they are carried away by erosion. When these pieces reach the ocean, they fall to the ocean floor. There these pieces can form new sedimentary rock.



Sedimentary rock can be formed when sand, shells, and pieces of rock fall to the bottom of the ocean and are pressed together.

**A.**

Write in the word that best completes each sentence.

1. Melted rock cools to form \_\_\_\_\_ rock.  
(igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic)
2. Pieces that make up sedimentary rock are  
\_\_\_\_\_ together.  
(stirred, pressed, melted)
3. Rock can be forced deep into Earth by \_\_\_\_\_.  
(earthquakes, erosion, weathering)
4. Inside of Earth, squeezing and heat form  
\_\_\_\_\_ rock.  
(igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic)
5. Tiny rock pieces carried away by water can form new  
\_\_\_\_\_ rock.  
(igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic)

**B.**

Write True if the sentence is true. Write False if the sentence is false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Igneous rock is formed from seashells.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Sedimentary rock is formed only on mountaintops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Small pieces of rock can be pressed into sedimentary rock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Metamorphic rock has been changed inside Earth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Rocks never change from one kind to another.

**C.**

Write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

You are digging a garden in your yard. You find rocks with bits of seashells in them. What kind of rock did you find? How do you think it got into your garden soil?

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