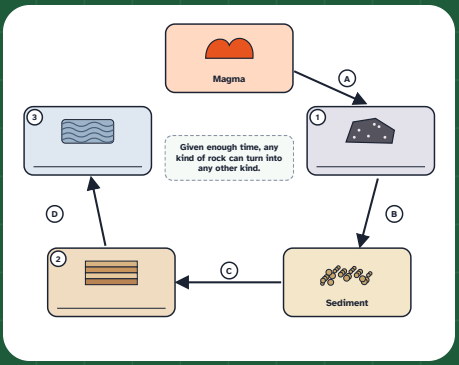
UpOnly Learning

GRADES 4–7 | FREE | ENGLISH

EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE

The Rock Cycle

Color + black-and-white + separate answer key



What's inside

- 1 student page in color, plus the same page in black and white
- A separate answer key, in color and in black and white
- A teacher page with full source citations
- Original illustrations; every label and answer checked against USGS, National Geographic Education
- Find more free Earth & Space Science on the last page.

How to use it

- Review the three rock types and how one becomes another
- Science centers, homework, morning work or sub plans
- Students check their work with the separate answer key, or keep the key for grading

About this activity

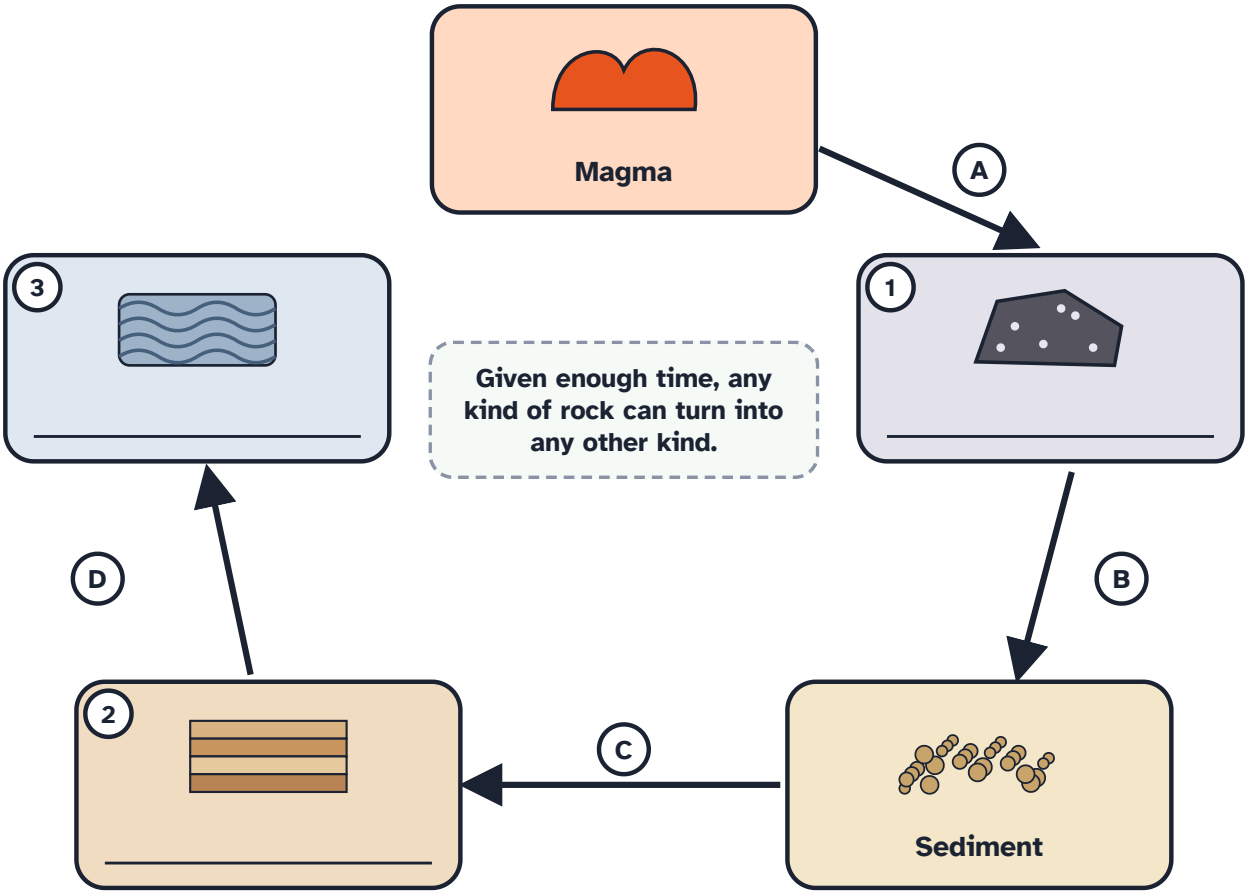
Recommended for Grades 4–7. The diagram shows one path through the rock cycle. National Geographic Education notes that any rock type can become any other.

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The Rock Cycle COLOR

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Write the three rock types in boxes 1–3 and the process for each arrow A–D. Use the word bank.



A _____ **B** _____

C _____ **D** _____

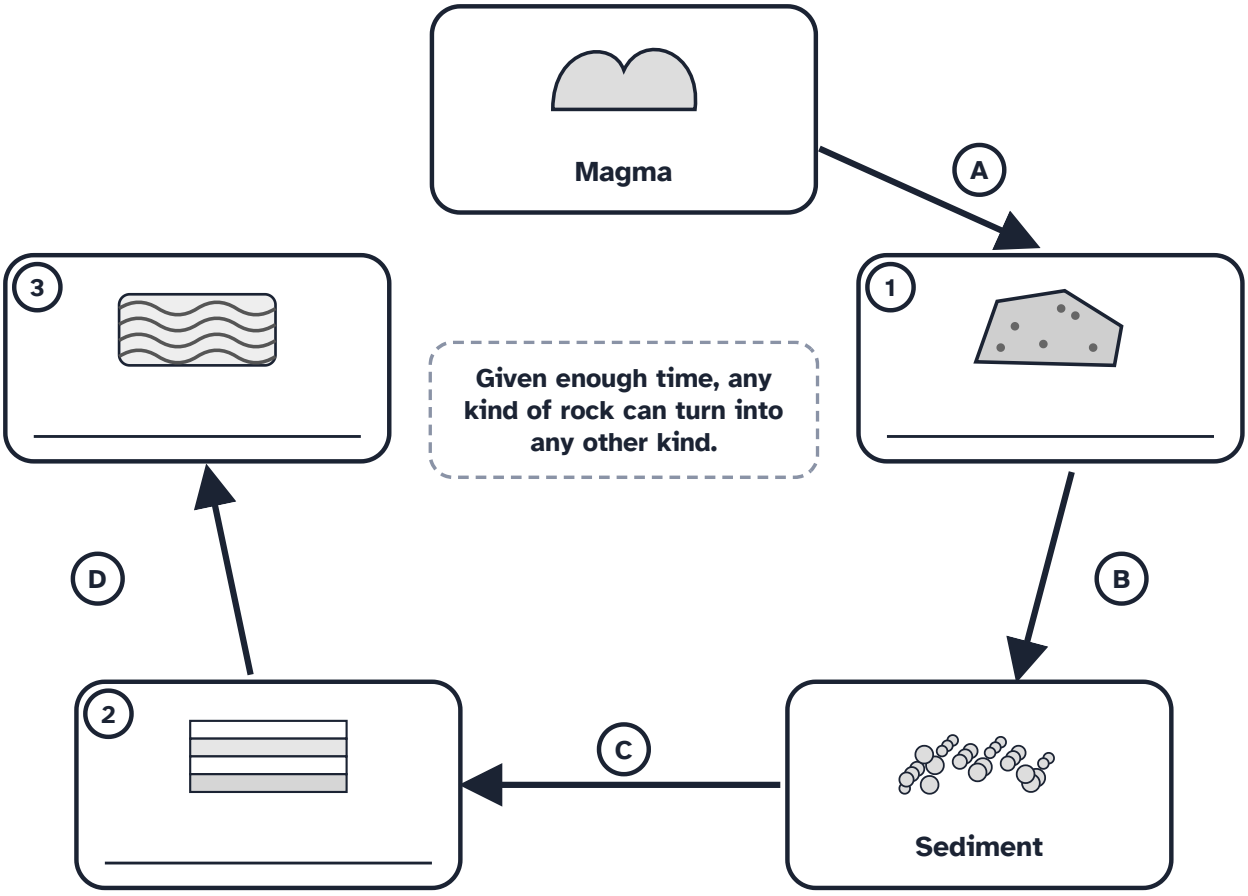
WORD BANK Sedimentary rock · Weathering and erosion · Igneous rock · Cooling and hardening · Great heat or pressure · Metamorphic rock · Compaction (layers squeezed)

The Rock Cycle

BLACK AND WHITE

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Write the three rock types in boxes 1–3 and the process for each arrow A–D. Use the word bank.



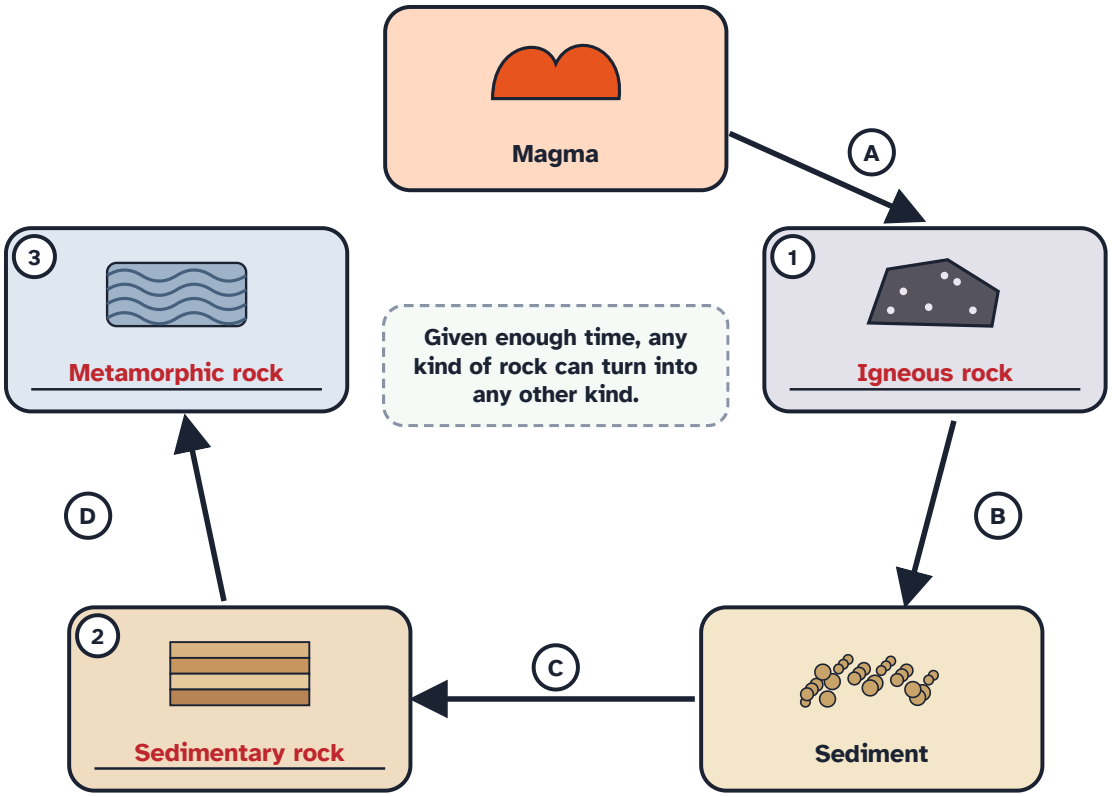
A _____ **B** _____

C _____ **D** _____

WORD BANK **Sedimentary rock** **Weathering and erosion** **Igneous rock** **Cooling and hardening** **Great heat or pressure** **Metamorphic rock** **Compaction (layers squeezed)**

Answer Key · The Rock Cycle COLOR

Keep this page for checking, or cut it off so students can check their own work.



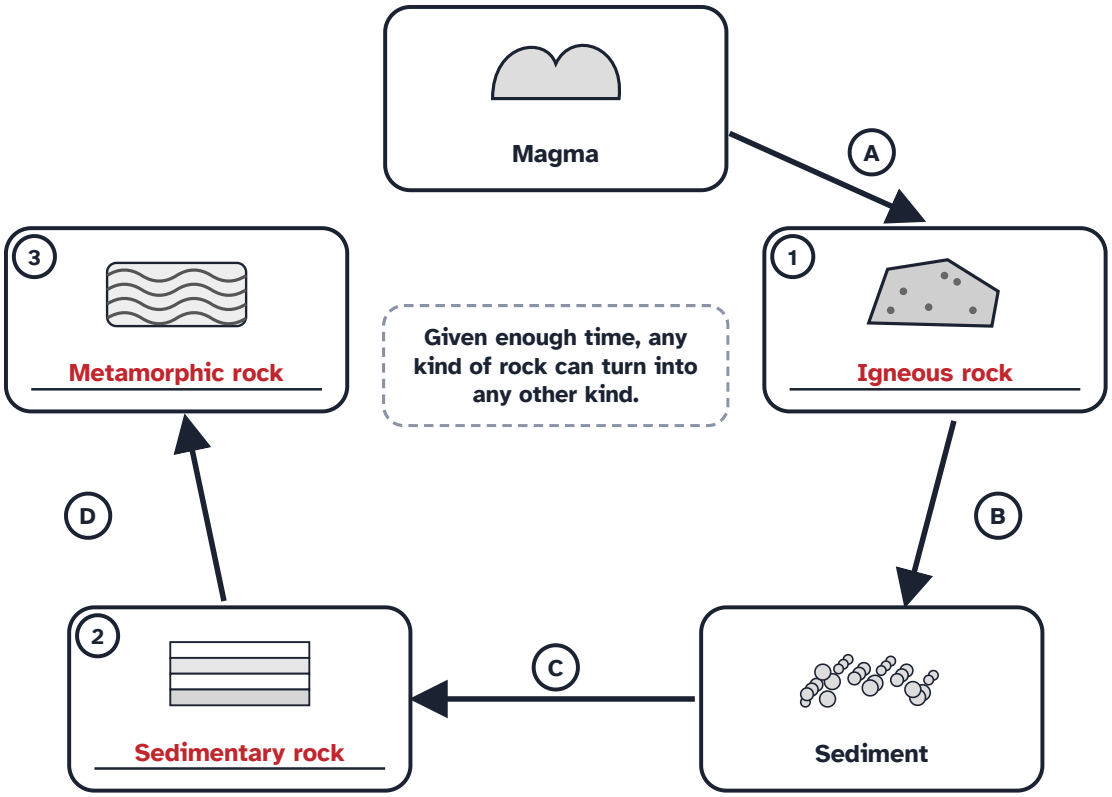
1	**Igneous rock**	Igneous rocks form when melted rock cools down and hardens. Their name comes from the Latin word for fire.
2	**Sedimentary rock**	Sedimentary rocks are made from bits of older rock or from the remains of things that were once alive. The bits pile up on the surface and slowly become rock.
3	**Metamorphic rock**	A metamorphic rock began as a different kind of rock and was changed a great deal.
A	**Cooling and hardening**	In the rock cycle, cooling and hardening of melted material makes igneous rock.
B	**Weathering and erosion**	Wind, water, ice and living things carry broken bits of rock away from where they started.
C	**Compaction (layers squeezed)**	As more layers pile on, the bottom layers get squeezed until they turn into solid rock.
D	**Great heat or pressure**	Very strong heat or squeezing is what changes them.

Sources. Facts: USGS, National Geographic Education. Full citations are on the teacher page.

Answer Key · The Rock Cycle

BLACK AND WHITE

Keep this page for checking, or cut it off so students can check their own work.



1	**Igneous rock**	Igneous rocks form when melted rock cools down and hardens. Their name comes from the Latin word for fire.
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D	**Great heat or pressure**	Very strong heat or squeezing is what changes them.

Sources. Facts: USGS, National Geographic Education. Full citations are on the teacher page.

Teacher page: sources and notes

Fact sources

U.S. Geological Survey. “What are igneous rocks?.” checked 2026-10-26. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-igneous-rocks
Used for: Igneous rock · t02-igneous

U.S. Geological Survey. “What are sedimentary rocks?.” checked 2026-10-26. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-sedimentary-rocks
Used for: Sedimentary rock · t02-sedimentary

U.S. Geological Survey. “What are metamorphic rocks?.” page updated 2026-09-09; checked 2026-10-26. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-metamorphic-rocks
Used for: Metamorphic rock · t02-metamorphic

National Geographic Society, Education. “The Rock Cycle.” page updated 2025-06-04; checked 2026-10-26. https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/rock-cycle/
Used for: A: Cooling and hardening; B: Weathering and erosion; C: Compaction (layers squeezed); D: Great heat or pressure; Given enough time, any kind of rock can turn into any other kind. · t02-igneous-ng, t02-transport, t02-compaction, t02-metamorphic-cause, t02-any-type

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