

Vocabulary

igneous rock rock that forms when molten (melted) rock cools and hardens. Igneous rock can form underground or at Earth's surface. Molten rock underground is called magma. Molten rock that reaches Earth's surface is called lava.

metamorphic rock rocks formed when other rocks are heated and squeezed deep inside Earth's crust

Metamorphic rock can form from any other kind of rock—igneous, sedimentary, or another metamorphic rock. If a rock is heated and squeezed too much it melts and forms igneous rock when it cools.

rock a solid substance found in nature, made of two or more minerals

Each kind of rock has certain minerals. For example, granite always has quartz, feldspar, and other minerals such as mica or hornblende. But two pieces of the same kind of rock may look different. For example, all granite contains feldspar, but different pieces of granite may have different colors of feldspar. Or one piece of granite may have a lot of mica, while another does not.

sedimentary rock any rock formed from pieces of other rock that have been squeezed by pressure and cemented by minerals

Before sedimentary rock can form, other rock must be weathered into sediments. Sedimentary rock can form from the sediments of igneous, metamorphic, or other sedimentary rocks.