

Nova's Guide to the Rock Cycle

Join Nova the Owl on a journey through the Earth's crust—discover how rocks change over millions of years!

- **Igneous rocks are formed when molten magma or lava cools down and turns into a solid state.**
- **Sedimentary rocks are created over long periods of time as layers of sand, mud, and pebbles are pressed together under the weight of water.**
- **Metamorphic rocks are formed when existing rocks are changed by intense heat and extreme pressure deep inside the Earth.**
- **Erosion is the process where wind and water wear away rocks, turning them into small particles called sediment.**
- **Fossils are most commonly found in sedimentary rocks because they form in layers that can trap remains of ancient plants and animals.**

Did you know? Did you know? The ground beneath your feet is constantly changing! It takes millions of years for rocks to cycle from being melted magma deep underground to being worn away by wind and rain on the surface.

Key vocabulary: Igneous · Sedimentary · Metamorphic · Magma · Erosion · Sediment · Pressure