

Nova's Guide to the Incredible World of Rocks

Dig Deep into the Earth with Nova: Uncover the Secrets beneath your feet!

- **How is igneous rock formed?** When molten magma from deep within the Earth cools and hardens, it creates tough, crystalline igneous rocks like granite.
- **What are sedimentary rocks?** These rocks form over long periods as layers of sediment, sand, and pebbles are pressed and cemented together by the weight of water and earth.
- **What happens to create metamorphic rock?** Existing rocks that are subjected to intense heat and immense pressure deep underground undergo a transformation, changing their structure and appearance.
- **Why do some rocks have holes?** Certain rocks are permeable, meaning they have tiny pores or gaps that allow water to pass through them, which can change the rock's shape over time.
- **How do we test rock hardness?** Geologists use the Mohs scale to compare how easily a rock can be scratched, helping them identify the mineral composition of the sample.

Did you know? Did you know? Some rocks are actually made of biological remains! Many sedimentary rocks, like limestone, contain tiny fossils of ancient sea creatures that lived millions of years ago. When you hold a piece of limestone, you are holding a piece of history from the deep ocean floor.

Key vocabulary: Igneous · Sedimentary · Metamorphic · Magma · Erosion · Fossil · Permeable · Hardness