

Nova's Guide to the Incredible World of Rocks

Dig deep and discover the secrets beneath our feet!

- **Igneous rocks are formed when molten rock, known as magma or lava, cools down and hardens. Can you name one example of an igneous rock?**
- **Sedimentary rocks are created over long periods of time when layers of sediment are pressed together at the bottom of oceans or lakes.**
- **Metamorphic rocks begin as either igneous or sedimentary rocks, but they are transformed by intense heat and pressure deep underground.**
- **Fossils are most commonly found in sedimentary rocks because the soft layers can trap the remains of ancient plants and animals before turning to stone.**
- **Weathering and erosion are the natural processes that break rocks down into smaller pieces called sediment.**

Did you know? Did you know? The Earth's crust is constantly recycling itself! A rock can start as molten lava, be worn down into sand by wind and rain, get buried under layers of sediment, and eventually be squeezed by heat and pressure into a completely new type of rock. This journey is known as the Rock Cycle.

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