Three Main Types of Rocks



Igneous Rocks

Above and below: Basalt	Above: Gabbro	Above: Pumice
Above: Basalt, Giant Causeway in Ireland	Above: Obsidian	Above: Granite

Sedimentary Rocks

Above: Conglomerate Rock	Above: Limestone	Above: Sandstone
Above: Shale		

Metamorphic Rocks



Three Main Types of Rocks

Igneous Rocks	Rocks that form when melted rock hardens are called Igneous rocks. Lava cools and hardens before large mineral crystals have time to form. Rocks formed from lava have small mineral pieces and are called fine-grained. Melted rock that stays below Earth's surface is called magma. Magma cools and hardens slowly. Its minerals can form large grains that are easy to see. Igneous rocks formed from slowly cooling magma are called coarse-grained.
Sedimentary Rocks	Material and weathered rock pieces drop to the bottoms of stream, rivers or lakes forming a sediment. Over time, layers of sediments can form sedimentary rock as they are squeezed and stuck together.
Metamorphic Rocks	High heat and pressure can change the texture of rock. It looks and feels different. They can also change the form of the minerals that make up the rock. These changed rocks are called metamorphic rocks.

Igneous Rocks - Possible Answers

Above and below: Basalt	Above: Gabbro	Above: Pumice
*the most common type of igneous rock that forms from lava at the Earth's surface. Basalt is a dark, greenish rock made mostly of feldspar and pyroxene.	Gabbro is an igneous rock also made of feldspar and pyroxene. It forms inside the Earth rather than at the surface. Gabbro has larger mineral grains than basalt.	Pumice is an igneous rock. The tiny holes in pumice are caused by gases escaping from lava as it cools
Above: Basalt, Giant Causeway in	Above: Obsidian	Above: Granite
Ireland	Obsidian forms from lava that cools so quickly that the rock looks like black glass.	Granite forms when magma cools slowly beneath the Earth's surface. Most granite is made of feldspar, quartz and mica. These mineral grains are joined together tightly.

Sedimentary Rocks-Possible Answers

Above: Conglomerate Rock	Above: Limestone	Above: Sandstone
Conglomerate is a type of sedimentary rock that can form from larger pieces of sediment/weathered rock, etc. The pieces in a conglomerate can be as big as boulders or as small as peas.	Limestone is a fine-grained sedimentary rock made mostly of the mineral calcite. Most limestone forms in oceans, sometimes from seashells.	Sandstone is a sedimentary rock that are made of bits of rocks and minerals the size of sand grains. Nearly all sandstones are made up mostly of quartz.
Above: Shale		
Shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock made of very, very small sediments.		

Metamorphic Rocks-Possible Answers

Above: Schist Mica schist sigmoidally sheared and intruded by Harvey Peak granite, 1.6 billion years ago. At Mount Rushmore. Schist has wavy lines. It splits easily into layers.	Above and Below: Gneiss Gneiss forms when schist is heated and squeezed more. It often has bands of light and dark minerals.	Above: Marble Marble is another metamorphic rock that forms when limestone is squeezed and heated. It's often used in buildings.
Above: Slate Slate is a metamorphic rock that forms when shale is under great pressure. Slate has layers.		Above: Quartzite Quartzite forms from sandstone when heat melts the sand grains together. It usually has a milky color.

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