

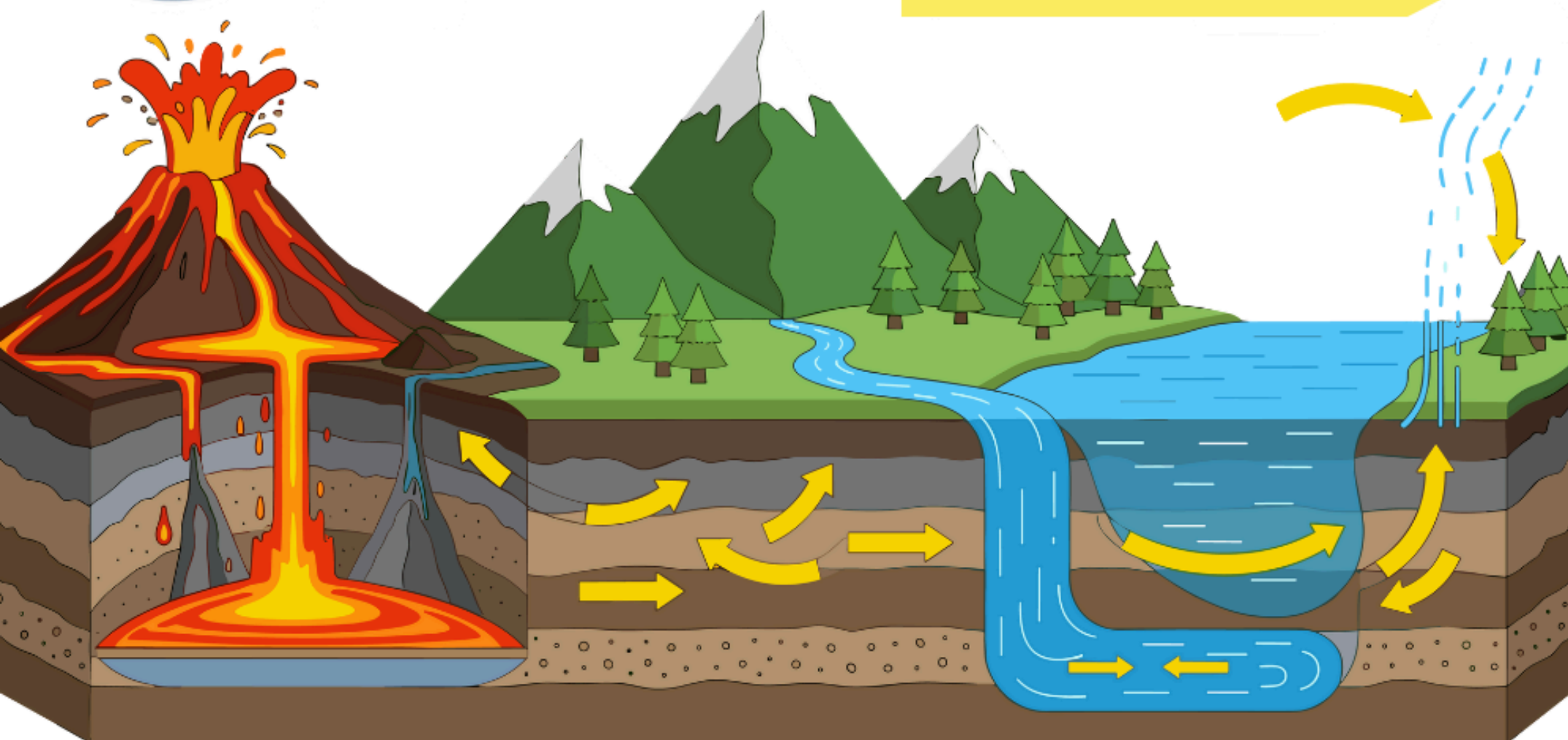
THE ROCK CYCLE

6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE READING

Sub Plan

Improve students'
literacy skills

Science Applicability



Reading Comment



★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - Great resource to work on student reading comprehension and it tied into the topic I was teaching. My students have been struggling with reading and I've been incorporating more reading into my lessons. Thank you for the resource.



SCROLL
to take a look inside!

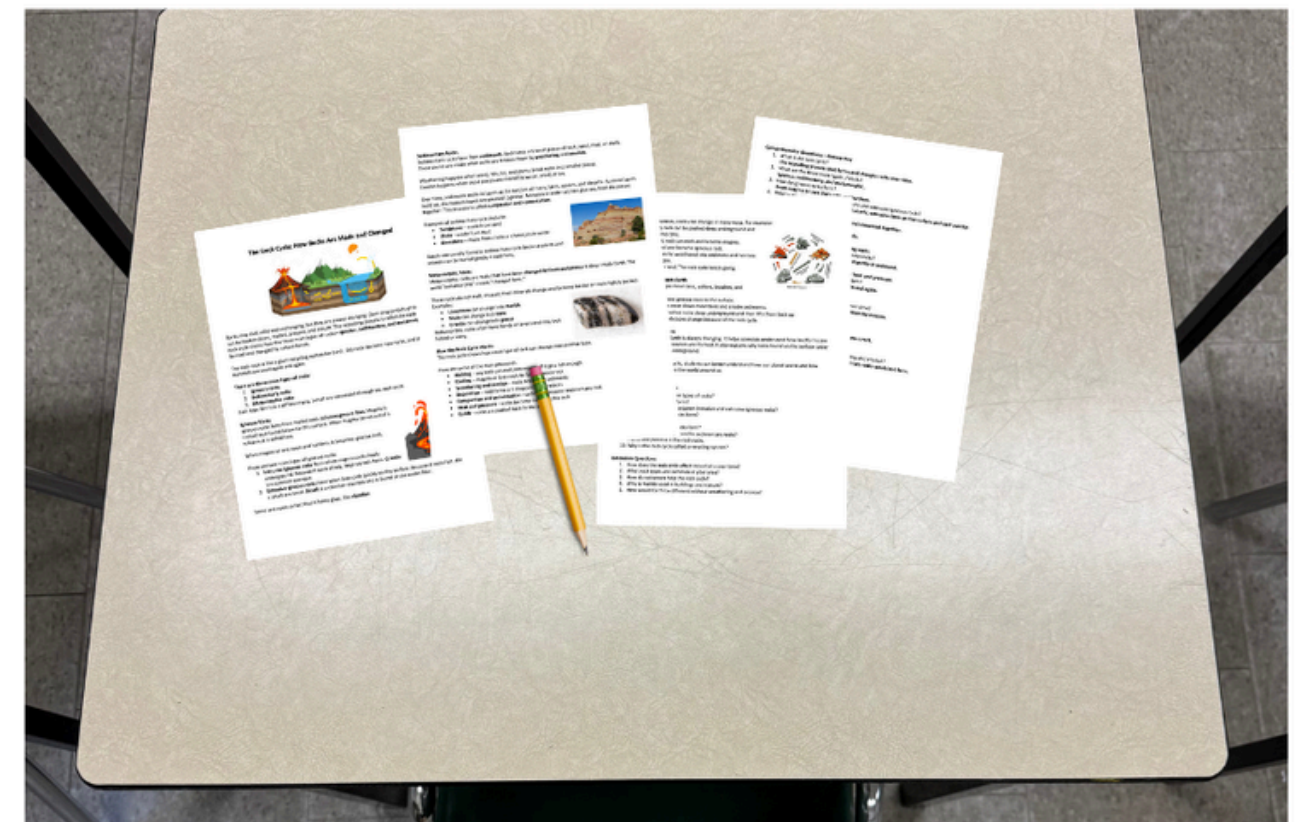


THE PROBLEMS YOU FACE

- Limited time to teach scientific literacy and strengthen students' reading and analysis skills.
- Need meaningful extension activities to engage fast-moving learners.
- Difficulty creating effective last-minute sub plans that still support student learning.

NO-PREP - PRINT/UPLOAD

- Questions and Answer Key
- **No Prep, Ready-to-Use:** Print or assign digitally with Google Docs, Microsoft Word, and PDF formats for flexible classroom use
- **Includes Varied Question Types:** Knowledge, thinking, connecting, application, and open-ended questions.



What Will Your Students Learn?

READING COMPREHENSION ARTICLE & QUESTIONS

- What Is the Rock Cycle?
- The Three Types of Rocks (Igneous, Sedimentary, Metamorphic)
- How Igneous Rocks Form (Magma & Lava)
- Weathering and Erosion
- Sediments, Compaction, and Cementation
- How Sedimentary Rocks Form
- Heat and Pressure: Metamorphic Rocks
- How Rocks Change in the Rock Cycle
- How the Rock Cycle Shapes Earth
- Why the Rock Cycle Matters

Article with
Comprehension
Questions

6th, 7th, 8th Grade

Print & Digital

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the rock cycle?
2. What are the three main types of rocks?
3. How do igneous rocks form?
4. What is the difference between intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks?
5. How do sedimentary rocks form?
6. What is metamorphism?
7. How do metamorphic rocks form?
8. Why is the rock cycle important?
9. Name the three main types of rocks.
10. What is the rock cycle?

Extension

1. How do igneous rocks form?
2. What is the difference between intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks?
3. How do sedimentary rocks form?
4. What is metamorphism?
5. How do metamorphic rocks form?

The Rock Cycle: How Rocks Are Made and Changed



Rocks may look solid and unchanging, but they are always changing. Over long periods of time, rocks can be broken down, melted, pressed, and rebuilt. This repeating process is called the rock cycle. The rock cycle shows how the three main types of rocks—igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic—are formed and changed by natural forces.

The rock cycle is like a giant recycling system for Earth. Old rocks become new rocks, and the same materials are used again and again.

There are three main types of rocks:

1. Igneous rocks
2. Sedimentary rocks
3. Metamorphic rocks

Each type forms in a different way, but all are connected through the rock cycle.

Igneous Rocks
Igneous rocks form from melted rock called **magma** or **lava**. Magma is melted rock found below Earth's surface. When magma comes out of a volcano, it is called lava.

When magma or lava cools and hardens, it becomes igneous rock.

There are two main types of igneous rocks:

1. **Intrusive igneous rocks** form when magma cools slowly underground. Because it cools slowly, large crystals form. Granite is a common example.
2. **Extrusive igneous rocks** form when lava cools quickly on the surface. Because it cools quickly, small crystals form. Basalt is a common example.



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Your Reading

The Rock Cycle: How Rocks Are Made and Changed



Rocks may look solid and unchanging, but they are always changing. They can be broken down, melted, pressed, and rebuilt. This repeating rock cycle shows how the three main types of rocks—**igneous**, **sedimentary**, and **metamorphic**—are formed and changed by natural forces.

The rock cycle is like a giant recycling system for Earth. Old rock materials are used again and again.

There are three main types of rocks:

1. **Igneous rocks**
2. **Sedimentary rocks**
3. **Metamorphic rocks**

Each type forms in a different way, but all are connected through the rock cycle.

Igneous Rocks

Igneous rocks form from melted rock called **magma** or **lava**. Magma is melted rock found below Earth's surface. When magma comes out of a volcano, it is called lava.

When magma or lava cools and hardens, it becomes igneous rock.

There are two main types of igneous rocks:

1. **Intrusive igneous rocks** form when magma cools slowly underground. Because it cools slowly, large crystals form. Granite is a common example.
2. **Extrusive igneous rocks** form when lava cools quickly on the surface. Crystals are small. **Basalt** is a common example and is found in many places.

Some lava cools so fast that it forms glass, like **obsidian**.

Sedimentary Rocks

Sedimentary rocks form from **sediments**. Sediments are small pieces of rock, sand, mud, and organic remains. These pieces are made when rocks are broken down by **weathering** and **erosion**.

Weathering happens when wind, rain, ice, and plants break rocks into smaller pieces. Erosion happens when those pieces are moved by water, wind, or ice.

Over time, sediments settle in layers at the bottom of rivers, lakes, oceans, and deserts. As more sediments build up, the bottom layers are pressed together. Minerals in water act like glue and hold the layers together. This process is called **compaction and cementation**.

Examples of sedimentary rocks include:

- **Sandstone** – made from sand
- **Shale** – made from mud
- **Limestone** – made from shells or chemicals in water

Fossils are usually found in sedimentary rocks because plants and animals can be buried gently in sediment.

Metamorphic Rocks

Metamorphic rocks are rocks that have been **changed by heat and pressure** deep inside Earth. The word "metamorphic" means "changed form."

These rocks do not melt. Instead, their minerals change and become harder or more tightly packed. Examples:

- **Limestone** can change into **marble**
- **Shale** can change into **slate**
- **Granite** can change into **gneiss**

Metamorphic rocks often have bands or layers and may look folded or wavy.

How the Rock Cycle Works

The rock cycle shows how each type of rock can change into another type.

Here are some of the main processes:

- **Melting** – any rock can melt into magma if it gets hot enough
- **Cooling** – magma or lava cools to form igneous rock
- **Weathering and erosion** – rocks break into sediments
- **Deposition** – sediments are dropped in new places
- **Compaction and cementation** – sediments become sedimentary rock
- **Heat and pressure** – rocks become metamorphic rock
- **Uplift** – rocks are pushed back to the surface

Because of these processes, rocks can change in many ways. For example:

- A sedimentary rock can be pushed deep underground and become metamorphic.
- A metamorphic rock can melt and become magma.
- Magma can cool and become igneous rock.
- Igneous rock can be weathered into sediment and become sedimentary again.

There is no beginning or end. The rock cycle keeps going.

How the Rock Cycle Shapes Earth

The rock cycle helps shape mountains, valleys, beaches, and canyons.

- Volcanoes bring new igneous rock to the surface.
- Rivers and glaciers wear down mountains and create sediments.
- Plate movement pushes rocks deep underground and then lifts them back up.

Over millions of years, landscapes change because of the rock cycle.



Why the Rock Cycle Matters

The rock cycle shows that Earth is always changing. It helps scientists understand how landscapes are created and how natural resources are formed. It also explains why rocks found on the surface may have once been deep underground.

By learning about the rock cycle, students can better understand how our planet works and how powerful natural forces shape the world around us.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the rock cycle?
2. What are the three main types of rocks?
3. How do igneous rocks form?
4. What is the difference between intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks?
5. How do sedimentary rocks form?
6. What are sediments?
7. How do metamorphic rocks form?
8. Why are fossils usually found in sedimentary rocks?
9. Name one process in the rock cycle.
10. Why is the rock cycle called a recycling system?

Extension Questions

1. How does the rock cycle affect mountains over time?
2. What rock types are common in your area?
3. How do volcanoes help the rock cycle?
4. Why is marble used in buildings and statues?
5. How would Earth be different without weathering and erosion?

on Questions – Answer Key

What is the rock cycle?

The rock cycle is the process that forms and changes rocks over time.

What are the three main types of rocks?

Igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic.

How do igneous rocks form?

Magma or lava that cools and hardens.

What is the difference between intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks?

Intrusive form underground and cool slowly; extrusive form on the surface and cool quickly.

How do sedimentary rocks form?

Sediments that are compacted and cemented together.

What are sediments?

Pieces of rock, sand, mud, or shells.

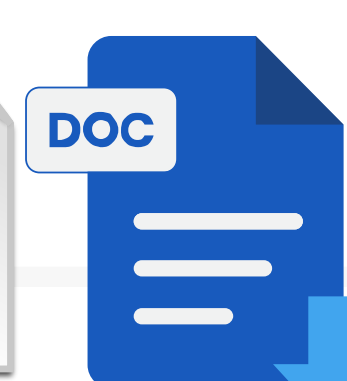
How do metamorphic rocks form?

Heat and pressure changing existing rocks.

Where are fossils usually found in sedimentary rocks?

In layers of sediment.

Answer Key Included Office, Google, and PDF Versions

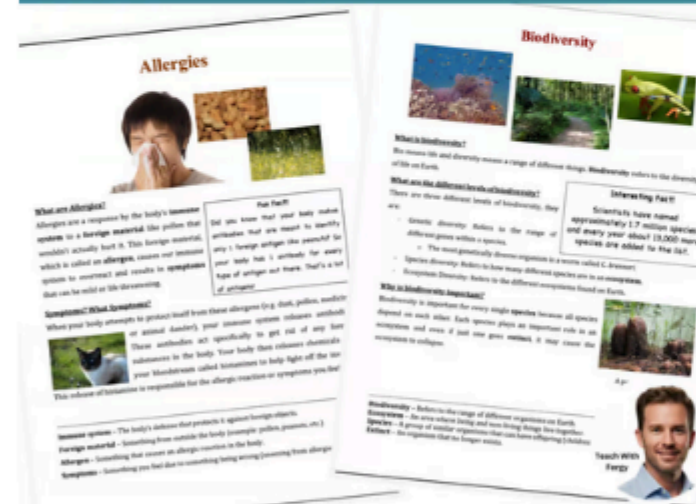


Comprehension and Extension Questions

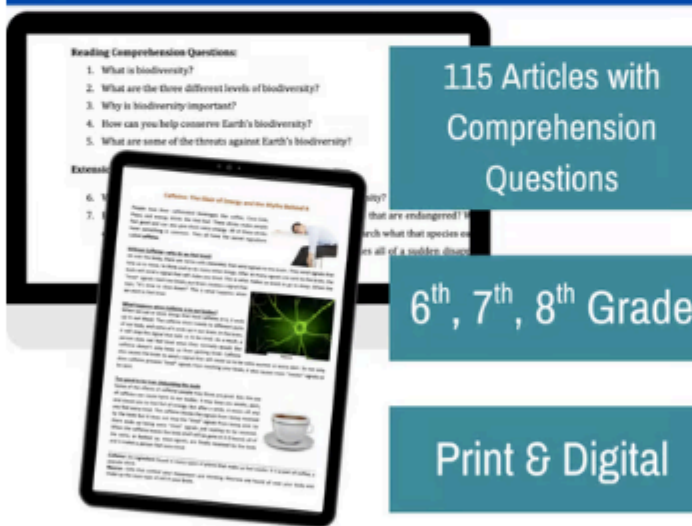
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learn more!**

★★★★★ Extremely satisfied - So many comprehensive readings for all science fields. PDF and DOCX versions included so they can be edited if needed. Each one includes short answer questions at the end, the first set are easy to find the answers to in the readings, the second set require a bit more critical thinking. Includes an answer key. Great to use to fill in time or for sub plans.

As a special bonus, I want to send you a few resources that you can use in your classroom tomorrow. Completely free and geared towards what you teach!



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