Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Rock Cycle Coloring**

Rocks are classified into three major groups according to how they form. These three types are described in more detail in other concepts in this chapter, but here is a summary.

* Igneous rocks form from the cooling and hardening of molten magma in many different environments. The chemical [composition](https://www.ck12.org/c/earth-science/composition) of the magma and the rate at which it cools determine what rock forms. Igneous [rocks](https://www.ck12.org/c/earth-science/rocks) can cool slowly beneath the surface or rapidly at the surface. These rocks are identified by their composition and texture. More than 700 different types of igneous rocks are known.
* Sedimentary rocks form by the compaction and cementing together of sediments, broken pieces of rock-like gravel, sand, silt, or clay. Those sediments can be formed from the [weathering and erosion](https://www.ck12.org/c/earth-science/weathering-and-erosion) of preexisting rocks. Sedimentary rocks also include chemical precipitates, the [solid](https://www.ck12.org/c/physical-science/solid) materials left behind after a [liquid](https://www.ck12.org/c/physical-science/liquid) evaporates.
* Metamorphic rocks form when the [minerals](https://www.ck12.org/c/earth-science/minerals) in an existing rock are changed by [heat](https://www.ck12.org/c/chemistry/heat) or pressure below the surface.