

Name:

Leave a Lasting Impression!

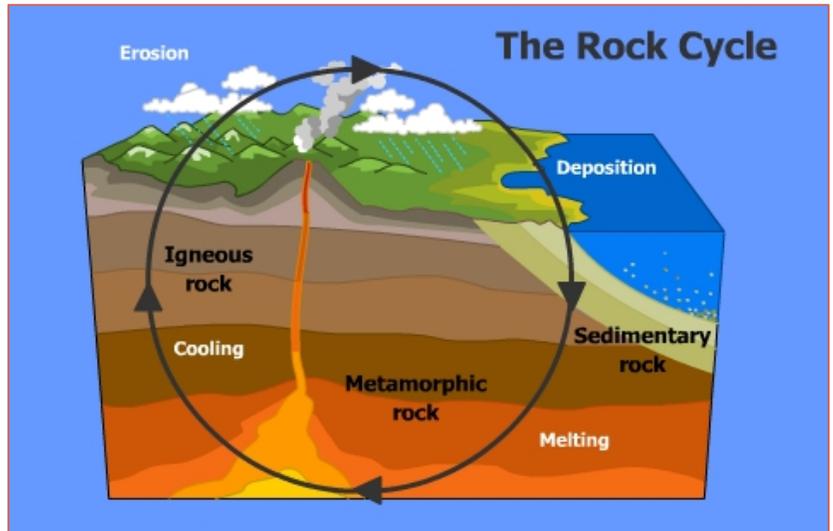
Types of Rock

Below are the three types of rock. Can you match their description with the picture?

Igneous (Volcanic) Rocks:
Crystal solids formed from cooled magma.

Sedimentary (Layered) Rocks:
Compact layers of looser sediment that forms on top of the igneous crust.

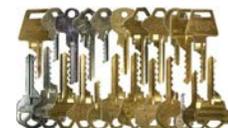
Metamorphic (Changed) Rocks:
Formed from other types under extreme pressure and heat.



Let's Make a Fossil!

Materials:

- Ruler
- Can or glass
- Paper clips
- Plaster of Paris mix
- Several different door keys
- Posterboard
- Modelling clay



Instructions:

1. Flatten a piece of clay to a thickness of about your pinkie finger. Use a can or glass to cut out a circle of clay.

3. Cut out a strip of posterboard about 4cm wide. Wrap this around your clay circle and use paperclips to join the ends.

2. Press the key into the to the centre of the circle until it is level with the clay. Carefully lift out your key.

4. Pour the Plaster of Paris mix into the mould, filling to the top of the posterboard. Use a ruler to level off and wait about 2 hours for it to dry.

Name: _____

Follow-up:

Unwrap the posterboard, and lift off the plaster cast.
Which key came from which cast? How can you tell?

How is this cast like a fossil?

What can scientists learn about plants and animals from looking at fossils?



Questions:

1. How is making a fossil with clay similar to the way fossils are actually made?
2. Is it easy to tell what object is which?
3. Would it be more difficult to tell other fossils apart, such as dinosaurs or shells?

Fossil Facts:

Many fossils have preserved the “hard” parts of an organism’s body, such as bones and teeth. However, softer organisms, such as insects or parts of plants, have been preserved by being covered in Amber (a hardened form of tree sap).



To Fossilize, or Not to Fossilize?

Which of the following factors do you think contribute to an object becoming a fossil? Circle them!



Availability of
Sedimentary Rock

Creatures buried
after death

Availability of
Metamorphic Rock

Availability of Igneous
Rock

Presence of silica,
calcite, or pyrite

Presence of
scavengers

Animal decomposes
quickly

Presence of water
and minerals

Minerals
recrystallizing