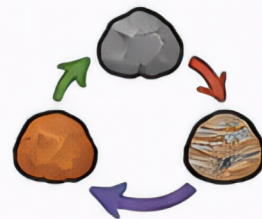


MAKING A MODEL OF THE ROCK CYCLE



Build a hands-on model of the rock cycle showing how rocks change from one type to another.

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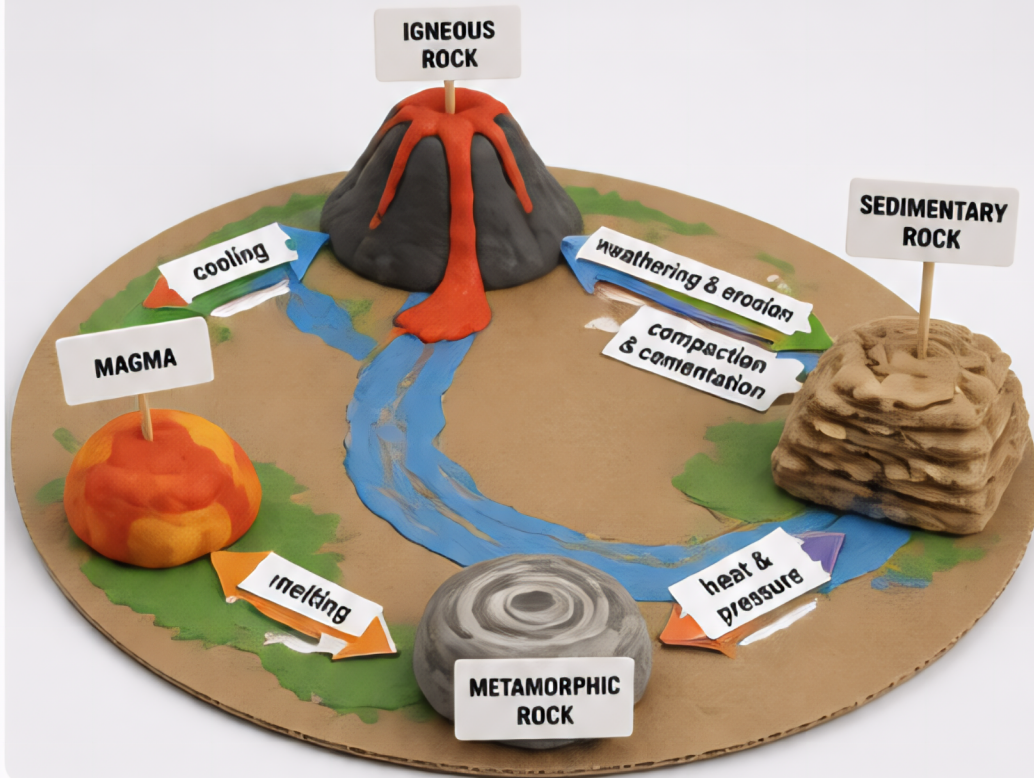
WHAT IS THE ROCK CYCLE?

Rocks are always changing! The rock cycle shows how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks can change from one type to another through processes like melting, cooling, weathering, erosion, compaction, and heat and pressure.

MATERIALS

- Modeling clay or play dough (different colors)
- Cardboard or sturdy plate (base)
- Small paper labels or flags
- Toothpicks or small sticks
- Markers
- Glue or tape (optional)
- Scissors (if needed)

YOUR MODEL



STEPS

1. **Make the Rock Types:** Use different colors of clay to make four parts: magma, igneous rock, sedimentary rock, and metamorphic rock.
2. **Place on Base:** Arrange your rock types on the base in a circle.
3. **Add Process Arrows:** Use paper strips or draw arrows to show how each type changes into another. Label each arrow with the correct process.
4. **Add Labels:** Use small flags to label each rock type.
5. **Review:** Check that your model shows the full cycle.

PROCESSES TO INCLUDE

- **Cooling** – Magma cools and hardens to form igneous rock.
- **Weathering & Erosion** – Igneous rock breaks down into sediments.
- **Compaction & Cementation** – Sediments are pressed and glued together to form sedimentary rock.
- **Heat & Pressure** – Sedimentary rock changes under heat and pressure to form metamorphic rock.
- **Melting** – Metamorphic rock melts to form magma.

THINK & ANSWER

1. How does magma become igneous rock?

2. What causes sedimentary rock to become metamorphic rock?

3. Why is it called the rock cycle?

★ CHALLENGE!

Add real small rocks to your model and explain where they fit in the rock cycle.