

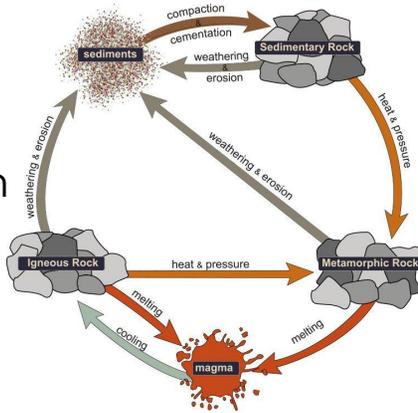


EDIBLE ROCK CYCLE

Demonstrate how different types of rocks are formed.

Materials

- Aluminum foil
- Wax paper
- 9 Starbursts
- Toaster oven
- Towels
- Oven mitts



Procedure

- Unwrap your starbursts.
- Lay 3 pieces of foil flat on the table. Place the wax paper on top of them.
- Stack 3 starbursts in the center of each of the papers. Roll them tightly over the starbursts and form the foil around the starbursts.
- Sedimentary phase: apply pressure to one of the stacks of starbursts to mash them flat. If you can't put enough pressure on them with your hands, try standing on them.
- Metamorphic phase: have an adult place one of the stacks in the toaster oven for about 2 minutes, or until soft. Have them wrap the stack in a towel and then you can squeeze it to change its shape. Did it take more or less pressure than the sedimentary phase?
- Igneous phase: have an adult place the stack in the oven for 5-10 minutes, until they are completely melted, and then set them down and wait for them to cool. When they're cooled, unwrap them and observe how the shape has changed.

Results

Different amounts of heat and pressure create different types of "rocks"!

Why?

There are three types of rocks: sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous. Sedimentary rocks are formed by pressure being applied over time, compressing material into rocks. Metamorphic rocks are formed by different types of rocks and/or minerals being subjected to heat and/or pressure until they create a new rock. Igneous rocks are formed when rocks are completely melted into magma and then cool again. The three different types of rocks are continuously transformed from one phase to another, forming the rock cycle.