

ROCKS, MINERALS AND SOIL

Rocks

Rocks are solid material found in nature made up of minerals. A **mineral** is a natural material usually found in the ground.

A **rock** has physical properties like color and composition, or what exact minerals make up the rock.

Another property of a rock is its texture. The **texture** of a rock is determined by what the rock is made of. Texture is how something feels.



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Lesson Checkpoint: What is texture?

Three Main Groups of Rocks

Rocks can be classified, or grouped, into three main groups. Rocks placed into a certain group according to how they were formed.

Igneous rock is one rock group that a rock can be classified into. Igneous rocks are formed underground and above ground. **Igneous rocks** are formed UNDERGROUND when melted rock deep below the Earth's surface becomes trapped in small areas underground. Melted rock found beneath the Earth's surface is called magma.



As the magma is cooled and solidified, it forms igneous rocks. Igneous rocks are formed from a volcano and the lava that flows from it. Lava is magma that has reached the Earth's surface.

Lesson



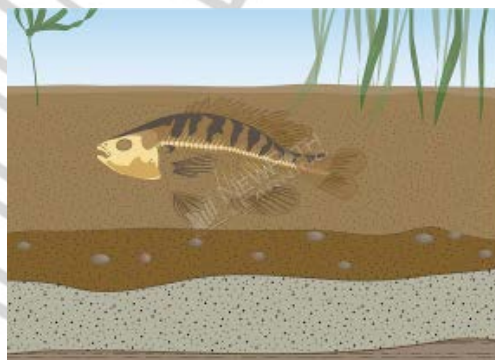
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rocks are formed from a volcano. Igneous rocks are formed from a volcano.

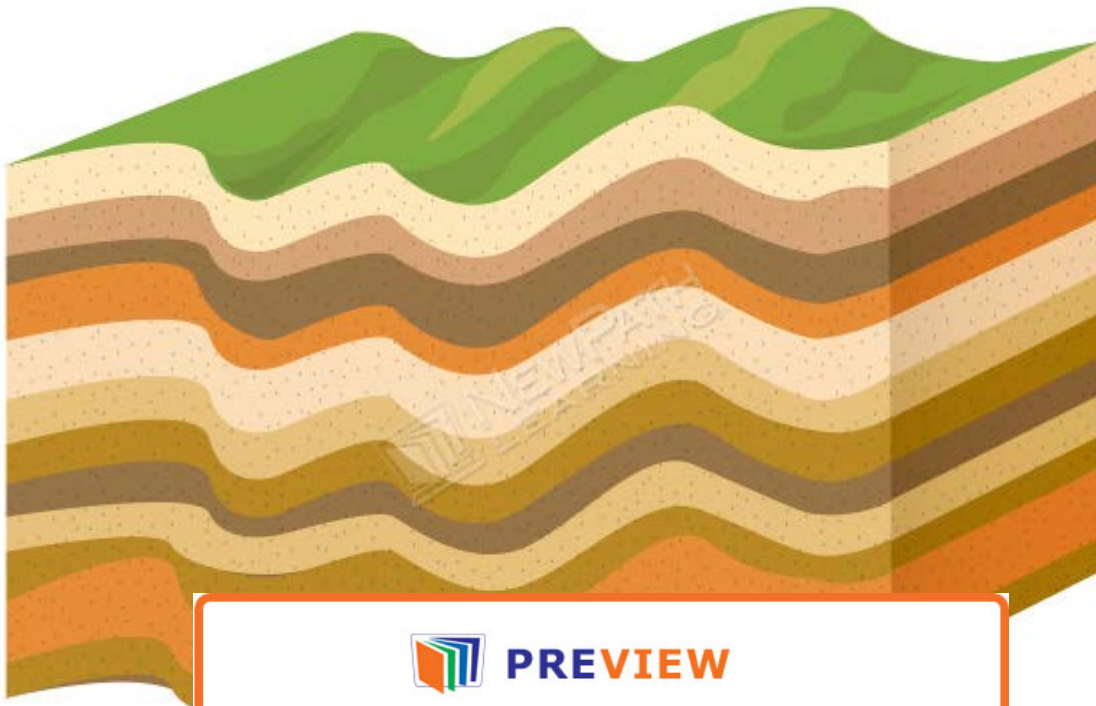
formed?

Another group of rocks is **sedimentary rocks**. Sediment is material that settles at the bottom of a body of water. **Sedimentary rocks** are formed when sediment piled up at the bottom of a body of water is pressed together over thousands of years. Fossils are MOST often found in sedimentary rocks. **Sedimentary rocks** are formed in layers.



Lesson Checkpoint: How are sedimentary rocks formed?

A third group of rock classification is **metamorphic rock**. **Metamorphic rocks** are rocks that have been changed by heat and pressure.



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When rocks are subjected to heat and pressure, causing the minerals inside the rock to change. Igneous and sedimentary rocks change into metamorphic rocks.

Minerals

Minerals are the most common solid material found on Earth. Minerals also have different properties that can be used to describe the minerals. **Luster** is a property of minerals that shows how much light is reflected by a mineral. Other properties of minerals are the color of the **streak** it leaves behind if it is rubbed against another surface and its **hardness**. The hardest mineral of them all is a diamond.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is one property of minerals?

Gold and silver are very rare minerals. Copper, lead, fluorite, and iron are examples of other minerals.


We need minerals in our bodies to stay healthy. We eat mineral when we eat certain such as vegetables and fruit.



Lesson Checkpoint: Why do our bodies need minerals?

Soil

Soil is loose m...
important bec...
and also get v...
contains wate...
where we get...
layers that ar...
topsoil, subso...
things.

**PREVIEW**
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Soil is...
by the soil...
e. Soil that...
including crops...
several...
layers:
starts all living



Lesson Checkpoint: What is soil?