**IGNEOUS ROCKS**

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| **Igneous means made from fire or heat.  When volcanoes erupt and the liquid rock comes up to the earth's surface, then new igneous rock is made.  When the rock is liquid & inside the earth, it is called magma.  When the magma gets hard inside the crust, it turns into** [**granite**](http://www.rocksforkids.com/R&M/granite.htm)**.**  **When the magma gets up to the surface and flows out, like what happens when a volcano erupts, then the liquid is called lava.  Lava flows down the sides of the volcano.** |

**SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**

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| **When mountains are first formed, they are tall and jagged. Over time mountains become old mountains. When mountains are old, they are rounded and much lower.  Rain, freeze, wind and running water cause the big mountains to crumble a little bit at a time.** **Most of the broken bits of the rock end up in the streams & rivers that flow down from the mountains.  These little bits of rock & sand are called sediments.  These sediments settle to the bottom of the lake or oceans they run into.  Over many years, layers of different rock bits settle at the bottom of lakes and oceans.**  **Think of each layer as a page in a book. One piece of paper is not heavy.  But a stack of telephone books is very heavy & would squish anything that was underneath. Over time the layers of sand and mud at the bottom of lakes & oceans turned into rocks. These are called** [**sedimentary rocks**](http://www.rocksforkids.com/R&M/sedimentary.htm)**.** |

**METAMORPHIC ROCKS**

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| [**Metamorphic rocks**](http://www.rocksforkids.com/R&M/metamorphic.htm) **are rocks that have changed.  The word comes from the Greek "meta" and "morph" which means to change form.  Metamorphic rocks were originally igneous or sedimentary, but due to movement of the earth's crust, were changed.**  **If you squeeze your hands together very hard, you will feel heat and pressure.  When the earth's crust moves, it causes rocks to get squeezed so hard that the heat causes the rock to change.  Marble is an example of a sedimentary rock that has been changed into a metamorphic rock.** |