

Starburst Rock Cycle Lab Procedures

Lab: Rock Around the Rock Cycle

Background: The rocks that make up the Earth are constantly being recycled. One form of rock is often changed into another form of rock through the processes of nature you have been learning about that occur over time, such as erosion, deposition, heat and pressure.

Materials: (per group) 3 different colored starburst candies, scissors, Ziploc baggie, piece of aluminum foil or small foil pie plate, hot plate, markers or colored pencils, paper, heavy books, blank rock cycle diagram

Procedure:

1. Take your three different colored Starbursts and cut them into as many small pieces as you can. Put them in a pile and **draw what you observe in your sediments box on the rock cycle diagram.**
2. Pick up the "sediments" and gently push them together so they all form into one big piece. Set this piece down and **draw what you observe in the sedimentary rock box on the rock cycle diagram**
3. Now take your "sedimentary rock" and put it in your Ziploc bag. Warm it in your hands for a while. Place a heavy book on top of the warm "sedimentary rock" and press down on it. Open the baggie and fold the "rocks" in half and press down on it some more. **Draw what you observe in the metamorphic rock box on the rock cycle diagram.**
4. Place your "metamorphic rock" on the piece of aluminum foil. Turn on the hot plate and place the foil on the hot plate. BE CAREFUL! Observe the "metamorphic rock" as it melts. **Draw what you observe in the magma box on your rock cycle diagram.**
5. Take your foil off the hot plate with tongs, being careful not to spill the "magma". Set it on the table and observe it as it cools and hardens. **Draw what you observe in the igneous rock box on your rock cycle diagram.**
6. Complete the conclusion and analysis questions.

Conclusions and Analysis Questions

1. **Make sure your Rock Cycle Diagram is filled out, with EVERY ARROW LABELED using the terms provided.**
2. What kind of rock comes from volcanoes?
3. Which rock is formed from broken-down pieces of rock?
4. What forces cause sedimentary rocks to form in nature (Hint: two "C" words)?
5. What forces create sediment (broken down rocks)?
6. Why is this called a rock CYCLE? (What is cycling and how?)
7. What is your favorite kind of rock?