

The Rock Cycle

Cross-Curricular Focus: Earth Science



Stand outside and look around you. You will see land. Land is made out of **rocks** and soil. A lot of the rocks are under the soil. Rocks are solid things made out of one or more **minerals**. Minerals are tiny solids found in nature. They have never been alive.

The rock cycle describes three things. It shows how rocks are formed. It shows how they **break** apart. Finally, it shows how they are made into other kinds of rocks.

Water, wind, chemicals or growing plants cause **weathering**. Weathering is the process that makes rocks break into smaller pieces. Water causes most of the weathering of rocks. Many rocks have small cracks that can let in water. The cracks get bigger if the water freezes and then melts again. The cracks finally get so big that the rock breaks into smaller pieces.

Layering is one way new rocks form. Tiny bits of rock and soil build up in layers over long periods of time. The more layers there are, the heavier they are. The top layers push down on the lower layers, and the bits of rock and soil bind together.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What is land made out of? _____

2) What is rock made out of? _____

3) What does the rock cycle describe for us?

4) What is weathering? _____

5) How does water break a rock? _____

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Name: **key**

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Actual answers may vary.

1) What is land made out of? _____

rocks and soil

2) What is rock made out of? _____

one or more minerals

3) What does the rock cycle describe for us? _____

how rocks are formed, how rocks break apart and how rocks are made into other rocks

4) What is weathering? _____

the process that makes rocks break apart.

5) How does water break a rock? _____

It gets into cracks and freezes, which makes the crack bigger.

When the crack is big enough, the rock breaks.