

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Rock Around the Rock Cycle

The rocks that make up the Earth are constantly being recycled. One form of rock is often changed into another form of rock through certain processes of nature that occur over time.

PURPOSE: Use this activity to model the rock cycle. Remember the candy represents rock and will be referred to as "sedimentary rock", "metamorphic rock", "igneous rock", "sediments", and "magma" in the procedure.

MATERIALS: (per pair/group):

- 3 different colored starbursts
- 1 pair of scissors per person
- 1 piece of aluminum foil
- 1 pair of tweezers
- Paper towels
- Heavy books

PROCEDURES

1. Take your 3 different colored Starbursts and cut them into as many small pieces as you can.

a. What process does this represent?

b. What do the small pieces of starbursts represent? _____

2. Pick up the pieces and gently push them together so they form 1 large rock.

a. What processes does this represent?

b. What type of rock is now formed?

3. Place the rock into your hand, and cup your other hand over it to warm the rock up for 1-2 minutes.

4. Fold a paper towel around the rock and place a text book down on the rock for 2 minutes.

a. What processes does this represent?

b. What type of rock is now formed?

5. Place your rock on a piece of tin foil. Fold up the edges of the tin foil but do NOT cover the rock.

6. Place the rock and foil in a pie plate on the hot plate.

a. What is happening to your rock as it sits on the hot plate?

7. Using the tweezers, take the tin foil off of the hot plate. Observe what happens as it cools?

a. What processes do steps 5-7 represent?

b. What type of rock is now formed?

8. Use the materials provided to create sediments.

a. What did you do to create sediments?

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