



Rocks Rock for Building Stuff

Rocks are natural objects that are composed of solid crystals. Rocks are made of a mixture of **minerals**. The way in which a rock forms determines what type of rock it will be. The three main types of rocks are sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous.

Sedimentary rocks are formed when small particles in the water called sediment settle on the bottom of a lake, river, or ocean. Over time, the particles of sediment stick together and form layers of rock. Sandstone, limestone, and shale are examples of sedimentary rock.

Metamorphic rocks are formed when old rocks are transformed by heat and pressure. The heat and pressure causes physical or chemical changes to occur and new types of rocks are formed. Most metamorphic rocks are very hard and dense and some are made of many layers. Marble and slate are examples of metamorphic rock.

Igneous rocks are formed when hot molten (liquid) rock cools down and solidifies from a liquid to a solid. Hot molten rock below the surface of the earth is called **magma** and hot molten rock on the surface of the earth is called **lava**. Obsidian and granite are types of igneous rocks.



Rocks are often used to build things like walls, floors, chimneys, walk-ways, and fences. In this STEM Challenge, your task is to design and build something useful using rocks and cement. Good luck with this STEM Challenge.