

THE ROCK CYCLE

Geological Transformation Stages

1. Magma / Lava

Molten rock beneath or above the earth's surface.

Next: Cooling and Crystallization

2. Igneous Rock

Formed through the cooling of magma (intrusive) or lava (extrusive).

Next: Weathering and Erosion

3. Sedimentary Rock

Accumulated particles deposited in layers and lithified over time.

Next: Heat and Pressure

4. Metamorphic Rock

Existing rocks transformed by intense heat and pressure without melting.

Next: Melting back into Magma

KEY PROCESSES

- **Weathering:** Breaking down rocks into sediment.
- **Lithification:** Compacting sediments into solid rock.
- **Metamorphism:** Structural change via heat/pressure.
- **Subduction:** Tectonic movement leading to melting.

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