

Rock On! (Assessment)

Standard Geol 3c

Rock On!

A geologist kneels on a rocky outcropping of the wall of a cliff high above a river. With skill and patience, the scientist chips away at loose dirt surrounding a piece of rock. Once the entire piece is loose, it is carefully removed from its million year-old resting place. The rock is placed in a plastic bag to protect it while it is transported back to the laboratory. There it will be studied by a host of scientists and their assistants.

The rock sample to be studied will fall into one of three general categories: sedimentary, metamorphic, or igneous. Each of these types of rock is formed by a different process. In this exercise you will be investigating one of those rock types and how it is formed.

1. Get out one piece of smooth-edged notebook paper and put your name on the top.
2. You will be assigned the type of rock you are to write about.
3. Write the type of rock you will become beside your name on the paper from step 2.

Your task in this exercise is to explain how your type of rock is formed *from the rock's point of view*. Pretend you are the *piece of rock* in the introduction above. What forces helped to form you? How long did it take to make you a "mature" piece of your rock type? What kind of minerals and other material do you contain?

Be creative as you describe the process of rock formation. The explanation should be fairly detailed, but not boring. Be sure to answer the three questions in the paragraph directly above this one. Finally, describe your discovery and how it felt to be discovered. (Don't forget the hammer used to chip away the material surrounding you!)

First, write a rough draft (without pictures) IN PENCIL. Your final draft should be written IN INK or TYPEWRITTEN, using as many pages as necessary. Treat this assignment like an English writing assignment. Proofread your final draft to be sure that you have few, if any, errors in spelling or grammar. Staple your rough draft to the back of your final draft.