

The Rock Cycle

The geological processes that form rocks work in cycles. Igneous rocks can be eroded and form sedimentary rocks. These can again be eroded to form new sedimentary rocks.

The sedimentary rocks may be pushed down into the Earth and form metamorphic rocks or mix with magma and form igneous rocks. Metamorphic rocks can also be eroded to form sedimentary rocks.

In the rock cycle, any rock type may be changed into another rock or a different rock of the same type, as shown in the diagram, depending on the conditions.

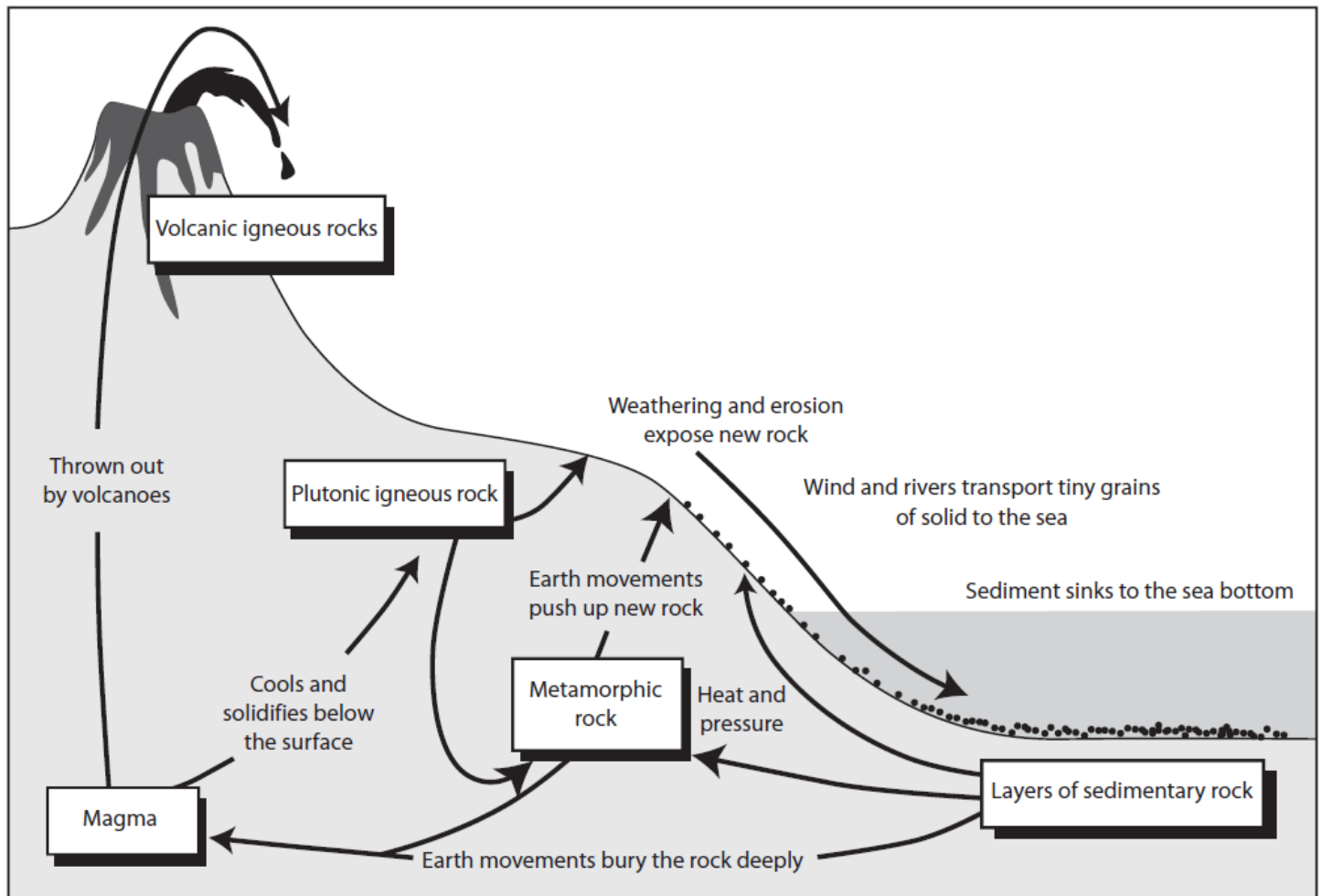


Figure 1. The Rock Cycle

Source: Chandler, N., 2001 Queensland Science 2, Pearson Education, Melbourne

This information sheet is an extract of the publication *The Science of Mining*, published by the Queensland Resources Council and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, 2004.

