

GCSE Science Biology:

Igneous Rocks, Sedimentary Rocks, Metamorphic Rocks

Igneous Rocks:

They are often formed from molten (melted) magma, which is pushed up to the surface of the crust, and often through volcanos. They contain various minerals in randomly arranged interlocking crystals. The size of the crystals (or texture) depends on the speed of cooling. There are two types of igneous rocks: extrusive and intrusive.

Sedimentary Rocks:

They are formed from layers of sediment (rock fragments or dead matter) laid down in lakes or seas over millions of years. Sedimentary rocks can also form when water evaporated and leaves a dissolved solid (like salt) behind. The layers are cemented together by other minerals. Fossils can form in the Sediments. These are long dead remains of plants and animals. The type of fossil is used to work out the relative age of the rock.

Metamorphic Rocks:

They are the result of heat and increased pressure exerted in existing rocks over long periods of time. Some have really tiny crystals and others have lots of layers inside of them.