

This geological timescale shows when different types of rock were formed.

There are three different types of rock, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.



TYPE OF ROCK EXAMPLE

IGNEOUS ROCK



GRANITE

SEDIMENTARY ROCK



SANDSTONE

METAMORPHIC ROCK



SLATE

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Sedimentary rocks

Pieces of broken rock carried by a river are deposited in a lake or sea. The weight of the sediment at the top builds up, squashes the sediment at the bottom, this is known as compaction.

Water is squeezed out of the rock and crystals, the crystals form a glue, which cements the rocks together, this takes millions of years.

Sedimentary rock may contain fossils of plants and animals. Some examples are chalk, limestone, sandstone and shale.



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Limestone
pavement
on top of
Malham
Cove

Metamorphic rocks



Slate Quarry, Cullipool

Earth movements cause the rock to become deeply buried and squeezed. These rocks are heated and or put under great pressure.

They don't melt, but they change chemically and form new rocks, such as:

Marble - which is formed from limestone

Slate - which is formed from shale

The crystals are arranged in layers because of the tremendous pressure.

They may contain fossils; however, they are normally squeezed out of shape due to the pressure.

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