Vocabulary: Rock Cycle

Vocabulary

- Deposition – the natural process of adding transported sediments to a landform.
- Erosion – the transport of fragments of rock by water, wind, ice, or gravity.
- Extrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock on Earth's surface.
  - Most extrusive igneous rocks originate in volcanic eruptions.
  - Examples of extrusive igneous rocks include basalt, rhyolite, and pumice.
- Intrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock below Earth's surface.
  - Examples of intrusive igneous rocks include granite, diorite, and gabbro.
- Lava – molten rock that has erupted onto Earth's surface.
- Lithification – the compaction and cementing of sediment into rock.
- Magma – molten rock below Earth's surface.
- Metamorphic rock – rock that has been changed by heat and pressure.
  - Examples of metamorphic rock include slate, schist, gneiss, and marble.
- Rock cycle – a continuous series of events through which a rock is transformed from one type to another.
- Sediment – rock fragments that have been transported to a different location.
  - Examples of sediments include clay, silt, sand, and pebbles.
- Sedimentary rock – rock formed from sediments, organic remains, or chemical precipitates.
  - *Clastic* sedimentary rocks are composed of rock fragments cemented together. Examples include shale, siltstone, sandstone, and conglomerate.
  - *Organic* sedimentary rocks are composed of the remains of living organisms. Examples include fossil limestone and coal.
  - *Chemical* sedimentary rocks are formed from chemicals dissolved in water. Examples include rock salt and travertine (a type of limestone).
- Soil – the top layer of Earth's surface that supports plant growth.
  - Soil contains a mixture of rock fragments, clay, and organic material.
- Weathering – the breakdown of rock due to rain, wind, ice, sunlight, and plants.