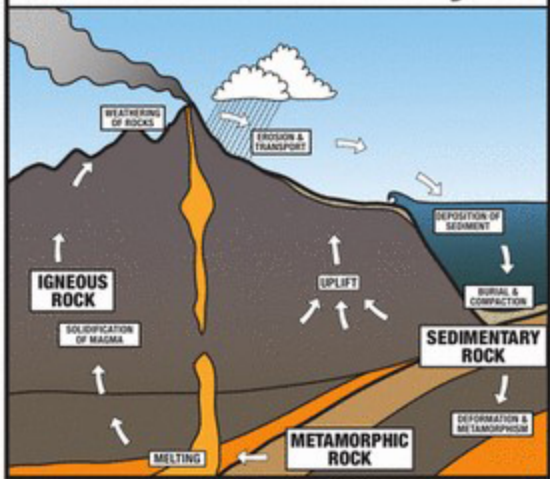


# All About The Rock Cycle



The rock cycle describes the change and movement of materials on and inside the Earth. The cycle is essentially a loop; stating that materials are neither created nor destroyed, they only change form when the environment changes. Sediments eroded from solid rocks are transported to a new location; in this diagram, the sediments are carried into the ocean where they settle and compact. Sedimentary rocks are created at the end of this stage. As the sedimentary rocks are buried deeper and deeper, heat and pressure cause physical or chemical changes in the rock, and they change to metamorphic rock. When the rock is pushed deep into the Earth, they can melt into magma. Once this magma solidifies, either inside the crust or after being expelled by a volcano, they change to igneous rocks. Eventually the rocks are worn down through weathering, and the process begins anew with the erosion and transport of the new sediments.