

**Activities** **Activity 1: Rocks in the Rock Cycle**

Read the "Introduction" section on the inside of the booklet that comes with your Rock Science Kit. This introduction explains what minerals are and reviews the three different types of rocks.

Next, explore the rocks in your Rock Science Kit. Rinse the rocks in water and set them on paper towels. This will help some of the rocks' colors to stand out. Feel the rocks to get a sense of their texture. Note that there are number labels on each rock. If the labels are coming off, you may want to create a new label with masking tape and a marker.

Without referring to the booklet, try to place each rock in the correct section — igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary — on the "Categorizing Rocks" sheet. You can use the information from the video and reading as a general guide, but it's also okay to guess. There will be 5 rocks in each category. When you are done, use the front or back of the booklet to check your work and rearrange any rocks as needed. See if you notice any similarities among the rocks in each group. You will continue exploring the rocks in more detail later in this unit.

 **Activity 2: Rocks and Their Environments**

Visit the following two websites to see how a famous rock formation — the Cliffs of Dover on the coast of England — is portrayed in painting and poetry. Then choose an option to complete. For Option 1, you will create a rock-inspired drawing or watercolor painting; in Option 2, you will write a poem about rocks.

**Cliffs of Dover**

[www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9569/](http://www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9569/)

Look carefully at this painting by American artist William Trost Richards of the Cliffs of Dover. Notice how detailed the surface of the cliffs are.

**Dover Beach**

[www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9565/](http://www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9565/)

The setting of this poem is similar to the one shown in the painting. Read the first stanza of the poem and note how the poet uses visual and sound imagery to create a picture of the scene in the reader's mind.

Choose your favorite rock from the Rock Science Kit. Decide if you would like to write a poem or create a drawing or watercolor painting of the environment where you imagine that your rock was found or would be found if it were outside. Use the kit brochure to find the rock's name and research the rock online to learn more about where it might be found.

**Geology.com**

[www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9598/](http://www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/9598/)

This site will have detailed information about the rock you choose.

Option 1: Painting or Drawing

In your painting or drawing, include the whole landscape surrounding your rock and what kind of plants and animals, if any, might live in that environment.

Option 2: Poem

If you choose to write a poem, include one or two plants or animals in your description of the environment, if they would be able to live there.

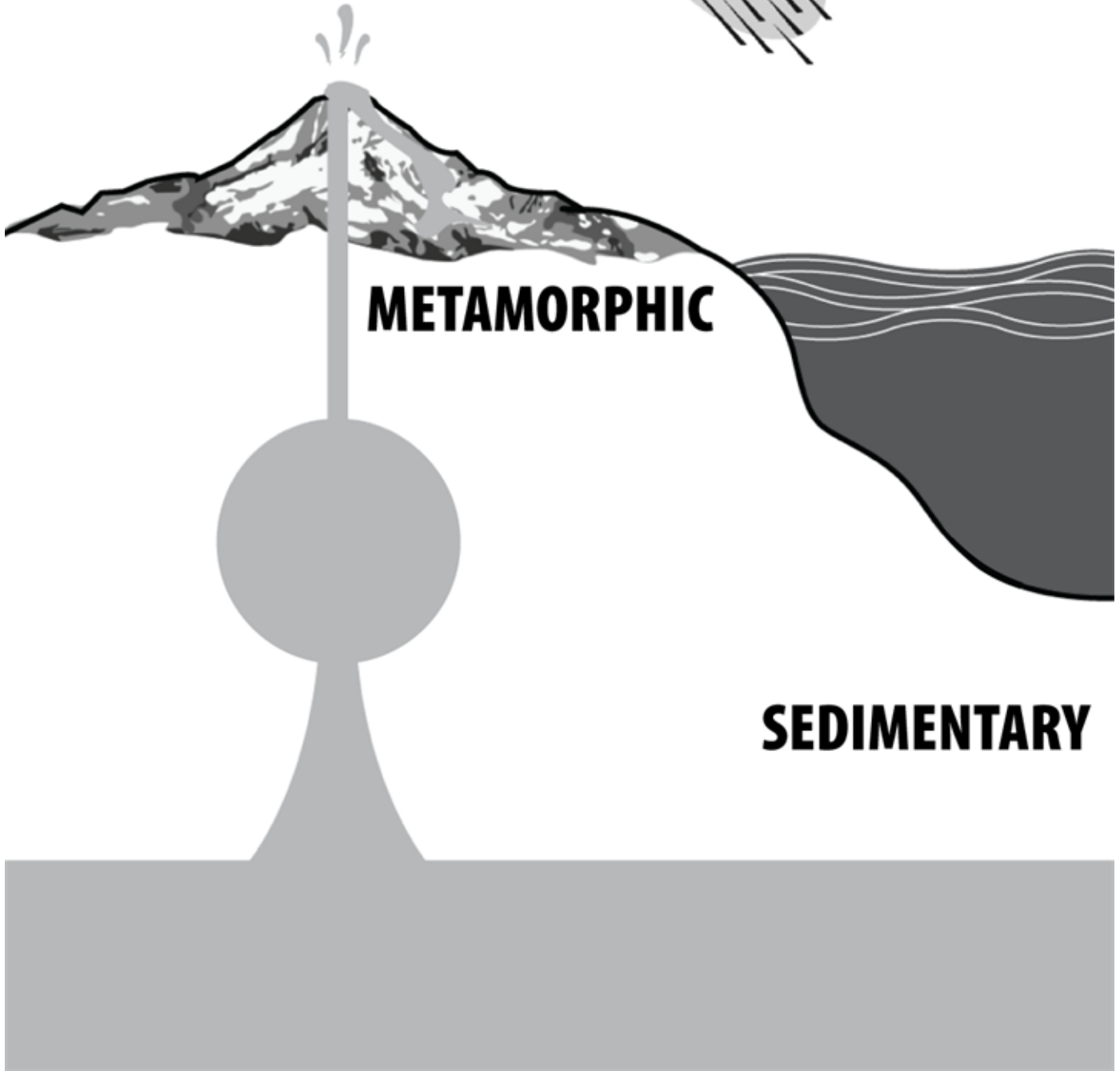
 **Wrapping Up**

Share your artwork or poem with a parent. Explain what you know about the rock. Discuss how much of your poem or artwork is a guess, imagination, or something you know about that rock's environment. You will learn more about each of the three types of rocks in the lessons that follow.

# CATEGORIZING ROCKS

**Directions:** Place each of your rocks in the correct category of the rock cycle.

**IGNEOUS**



**METAMORPHIC**

**SEDIMENTARY**

## Lesson 1: The Rock Cycle

### Activities

#### **Activity 1: Rocks in the Rock Cycle**

Your child will study the rocks that came with his Rock Science Kit. He will first try to classify each rock as igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary, and then use the kit's brochure to check his answer. Ask him if he notices any similarities among the rocks in each category. He will continue to explore the rocks throughout this unit.

#### **Activity 2: Rocks and Their Environments**

Your child will look at a painting and a stanza of a poem that both deal with the same setting: the ocean/beach area of the Cliffs of Dover in England. He can then choose to either draw or paint a landscape where he imagines one of the rocks from his kit would be found (Option 1) or write a poem about the same scene (Option 2). Discuss with him why he feels the landscape is correct for this rock. Encourage him to research the rock online to learn more about it. (Rock names are located on the booklet that comes with the Rock Science Kit.)

#### Option 1: Painting or Drawing

For this option your child should have drawn or painted a landscape that includes the rock and any plants or animals that might also live in that environment.

#### Option 2: Poem

For this option, your child should write a poem that describes the rock as well as any plants or animals that might also live in that environment.