

NATURE'S MYSTERIES

Lesson Plan

The Rock Cycle

Lesson Plan for *China's Tianzi Mountain*

Grade 3

Objective

To help students use infographics to learn about the steps of the rock cycle.

Things Needed

- *China's Tianzi Mountain* book
- Rock Cycle worksheet (attached)
- Access to the DK Findout "Rock Cycle" web page:
<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/rock-cycle/>

Before the Activity

Print out a worksheet for each student, or email the worksheet to students. Read the *China's Tianzi Mountain* book out loud to students, or have students read it on their own.

Activity

Chapter 3 ("Shaping the Pillars") describes two processes that helped shape the rock pillars of Tianzi Mountain. These processes, weathering and erosion, affect rocks in different ways. Display the infographic on pages 22 and 23 of the book and ask the following questions:

- According to this infographic, how does weathering affect rocks? (Answer: It breaks down rock, but it doesn't move the pieces.)
- How does erosion affect rocks? (Answer: It moves pieces of the rock away.)
- According to this infographic, what is deposition? (Answer: It's when the rock pieces are dropped in new spots.)

Explain that these steps are part of the rock cycle. Have students open the "Rock Cycle" web page in their internet browsers. Explain that the worksheet includes sentences about the stages of the rock cycle. But each stage has a missing word. Students should fill this blank with a word from the word bank. Then, on the line beneath each sentence, students should write the stage of the rock cycle the sentence describes.



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Evaluation

Collect the worksheets and use the attached answer key to give each student 1 point for each correct word and 1 point for each correct stage, for up to 20 points.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.3, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard D, grades K–4.



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Rock Cycle

Choose a word from the word bank to fill the blank in each sentence. Then write the step of the rock cycle the sentence describes on the line below it. Some steps will be used more than once.

carried	metamorphic
glacier	packed
igneous	sedimentary
living	settle
magma	volcano

1. Rain, wind, heat, or _____ things break down rocks.

2. A river, _____, or wind carries away those rock pieces.

3. Rocks are broken down even further and _____ long distances.

4. Rock pieces reach the sea and slowly _____ to the bottom.



5. Rock pieces at the bottom of the sea get _____ together.

6. The rock pieces slowly harden into _____ rock.

7. Heat and pressure deep in the earth change the rock into _____ rock.

8. If the rock gets hot enough, it can turn into _____.

9. Hot, liquid rock bursts above the surface when a _____ erupts.

10. The magma turns into _____ rock.



Rock Cycle **ANSWER KEY**

Choose a word from the word bank to fill the blank in each sentence. Then write the step of the rock cycle the sentence describes on the line below it. Some steps will be used more than once.

carried	metamorphic
glacier	packed
igneous	sedimentary
living	settle
magma	volcano

1. Rain, wind, heat, or living things break down rocks.

Weathering

2. A river, glacier, or wind carries away those rock pieces.

Erosion

3. Rocks are broken down even further and carried long distances.

Carrying

4. Rock pieces reach the sea and slowly settle to the bottom.

Settling



5. Rock pieces at the bottom of the sea get packed together.

Compacting

6. The rock pieces slowly harden into sedimentary rock.

Compacting

7. Heat and pressure deep in the earth change the rock into metamorphic rock.

Heating

8. If the rock gets hot enough, it can turn into magma.

Intense heating

9. Hot, liquid rock bursts above the surface when a volcano erupts.

Volcanic

10. The magma turns into igneous rock.

Volcanic

