Activity 1 - Rock Cycle Model

Students will create a physical model of the rock cycle using materials like clay, paper, and markers. They will design the cycle to show how igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks are interconnected through processes like melting, cooling, weathering, and compaction. By visualizing the rock cycle, students will see how these materials are constantly moving and transforming within the Earth's crust.

The Rock Cycle - Printable Template

Instructions: Use this template to guide your drawing of the rock cycle. Follow each step to create an informative and colorful diagram.

Step 1: Draw the Rock Cycle Outline

- Draw a large oval or circle in the center of your page.
- Divide the circle into three sections.
- Label each section: **Igneous Rock, Sedimentary Rock, Metamorphic Rock**.
- Add arrows between the sections to indicate movement in the cycle.

Step 2: Igneous Rock Formation

- Draw a **volcano erupting** with lava flowing out.
- Show **magma cooling** and solidifying into rock at the base.
- Label: **"Igneous Rock (Cooled Magma)"**.
- Suggested colors: **Red, Orange, Black, Gray**.

Step 3: Weathering & Sedimentary Rock Formation

- Draw **rain, wind, or a river breaking the igneous rock** into small pieces.
- Sketch **layers of sediments settling at the bottom of a river or ocean**.
- Label: **"Sedimentary Rock (Compacted Sediments)"**.
- Suggested colors: **Brown, Beige, Light Gray**.

Step 4: Metamorphic Rock Formation

- Draw **deep underground conditions with heat and pressure forces**.

- Show **rock layers being compressed and transformed**.
- Label: **"Metamorphic Rock (Heat & Pressure)"**.
- Suggested colors: **Dark Gray, Wavy Patterns**.

Step 5: Completing the Cycle

- Draw arrows **leading from metamorphic rock back to magma**.
- Label: **"Melting → Magma"**.
- Add a **title: "The Rock Cycle"** at the top of the page.

Final Touches:

- Add clear **arrows and labels**.
- Use **bold colors** to highlight each stage.
- Create a **key/legend** explaining each part of the cycle.

Now, color your diagram and review the rock cycle process!