

Sedimentary Rocks

Sedimentary Rock Composition

- Sandstone is one of the common types of sedimentary rocks that form from sediments.
- Sediments may include:
 - Fragments of other rocks worn down into small pieces: sand, silt, or clay.
 - **Organic Materials:** remains of organisms.
 - **Chemical Precipitates:** materials left behind after water evaporates from a solution.

Study Tip

Have you ever wondered if there was a “rock cycle”? Rocks can be broken down into small pieces, but these pieces can also be pressed together to form new rocks, called sedimentary rocks.

Erosion

- Rocks at the surface undergo mechanical and chemical weathering.
- Weathering breaks rock into smaller pieces.
 - Mechanical weathering breaks the rocks apart.
 - Chemical weathering dissolves the less stable minerals.
- **Erosion:** Sediments are removed and transported by water, wind, ice, or gravity.
 - Landslides drop large piles of sediment.
 - Glaciers leave large piles of sediments.
 - Wind can only transport sand and smaller particles.



Water erodes the land surface in Alaska’s Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.

Sedimentary Rock Formation

- The type of sediment that is deposited will determine the type of sedimentary rock that can form.
- The environment determines different colors of sedimentary rock.
 - Red rocks where oxygen is present.
 - Darker sediments when environment is oxygen poor.

Concept Check

- What are some materials that can form sedimentary rocks?
- What are some mediums of erosion?
- How are sediments moved from place to place?