**The Rock Cycle**

The following activities are all based on the Rock Cycle interactive website by the Annenberg Center (<https://www.learner.org/interactives/rockcycle/index.html>).

Begin on the Introduction page. Read the paragraph in the green box that begins with “Discover rock secrets…”, and then click the link at the bottom entitled “Begin with types of rocks”. On this page, read about sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks.

Sedimentary rocks—

Sedimentary rocks are made of sediments. Describe what a sediment is, and list 3 things that sediments can be made from:

Do sedimentary rocks tend to be hard rocks, or soft rocks?

Are fossils found in sedimentary rocks?

Metamorphic Rocks—

What does “metamorphosis” mean?

What two factors create the “squeezing” that changes rocks when they metamorphose?

Describe what metamorphic rocks look like—what physical characteristics doe these rocks tend to have?

What are two examples of types of metamorphic rock?

Igneous Rocks—

What material are igneous rocks made out of?

Do igneous rocks form above the Earth’s surface, below the Earth’s surface, or both?

Describe the characteristics of an igneous rock that cools very quickly.

Name two types of igneous rock that form when magma cools quickly.

What to look for: At the bottom of the “Types of Rock” page is a chart that describes “key characteristics” of rocks. In the back of the room are several carts of rocks. With your table group, go to these rock samples and find a rock sample for ***each*** of the six “key characteristics” that is found in the chart. In other words, find a rock that has “Crystals”, another rock that has “Fossils”, a sample that has “Gas Bubbles”, etc…. VERY carefully carry these rocks samples back to your table. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not break any of these samples—they are very difficult to replace!!!

Take a picture of each rock sample. With your group, you will post these images on Padlet. Go to the class website, and on the top menu click on “Padlet”. Decide (with the rest of the class) which Padlet # your group will access and use.

On your Padlet page please post the pictures that you took of the six different rock characteristics that found. Label each image with the name of the characteristic that your rock sample represents. You should end up with six images on your Padlet, and each image should be labeled either “Crystals”, “Gas Bubbles”, “Fossils”, etc..

Once you are finished, ask a teacher to check your work. If your Padlet gets a thumbs up, delete the images and then work on the “Start your rock collection” activity at the bottom of the “Types of Rocks” interactive page.