

## Ohio State University Extension Lorain County 4-H School Enrichment Outreach

# Starburst Rock Cycle

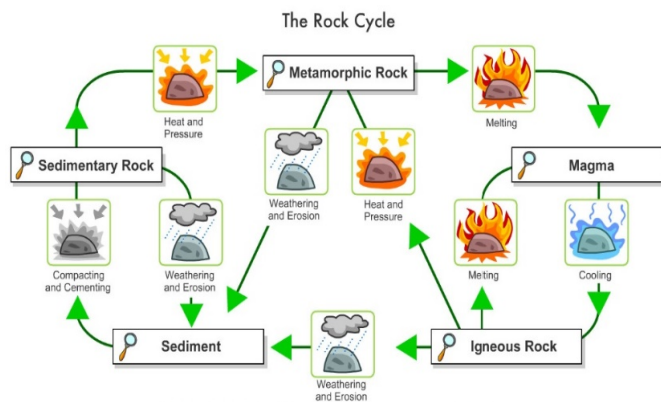
Inspired by *Geology: Can You Dig It?* An Ohio 4-H Project Book

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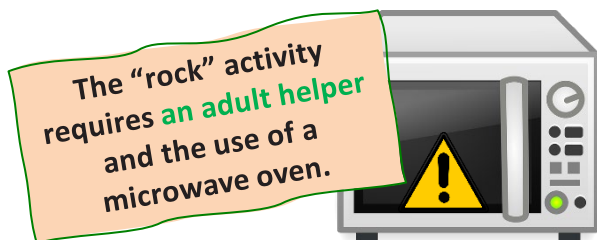
## The rock cycle, you've heard of that. But Starburst? Check it out!

This is a hands-on STEM activity demonstrating three different stages of the rock cycle – and you use candy to do it. Science just got a whole lot more delicious!

The [rock cycle](#) is how rocks and [sediment](#), broken up pieces of rock and earth, move from the earth's surface deep into the earth; continuously transforming from one form into another, over a **very long time**.



The three types of rock on this diagram can be found all around us. It makes rock collecting an easy hobby to start! You may find lots of fossils too. [Fossils](#) are the preserved remains or traces of plants and animals that lived long ago.



As you follow the arrows on the rock cycle diagram, you'll notice **heat, pressure, weathering, erosion, cementing and compacting**. With these forces at work, different types of rocks are created.

### To make the candy "rocks":

- A **microwave** acts as **heat** from deep in the earth.
- **Your hands** apply **pressure** to **cements** and **compact**.
- The sediment is where the **candy** comes in!

### Materials needed:

**Adult helper** and **Microwave oven**

**5 Starburst™ candies** and **2 parchment paper\* squares**

(\*you can use a cupcake liner or wax paper, but the candy may stick to the paper!)

### Procedure:

- 1) Take 2 unwrapped pieces and squeeze together (**in your hands**) to form the sedimentary rock.
  - ❖ [Sedimentary rock](#) is layered through **compacting and cementing**.
- 2) Place 2 pieces unwrapped pieces on parchment. Warm in microwave for ~8 seconds. Now, **gently squeeze** together to form metamorphic rock.
  - ❖ [Metamorphic rock](#) is sedimentary rock that gets transformed by **heat and pressure**.
- 3) Place last unwrapped piece on parchment. Microwave until **completely melted/bubbly** ~15 seconds. Now it's "[magma](#)".

**Let it cool before you touch it. It is VERY, VERY HOT.**

- ❖ Magma forms into [igneous rock](#) as it cools.

Now, **examine** your results. How are they alike?  
How are they different?



Content adapted from [Ohio 4-H project book](#) and <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/rocks-and-minerals/>