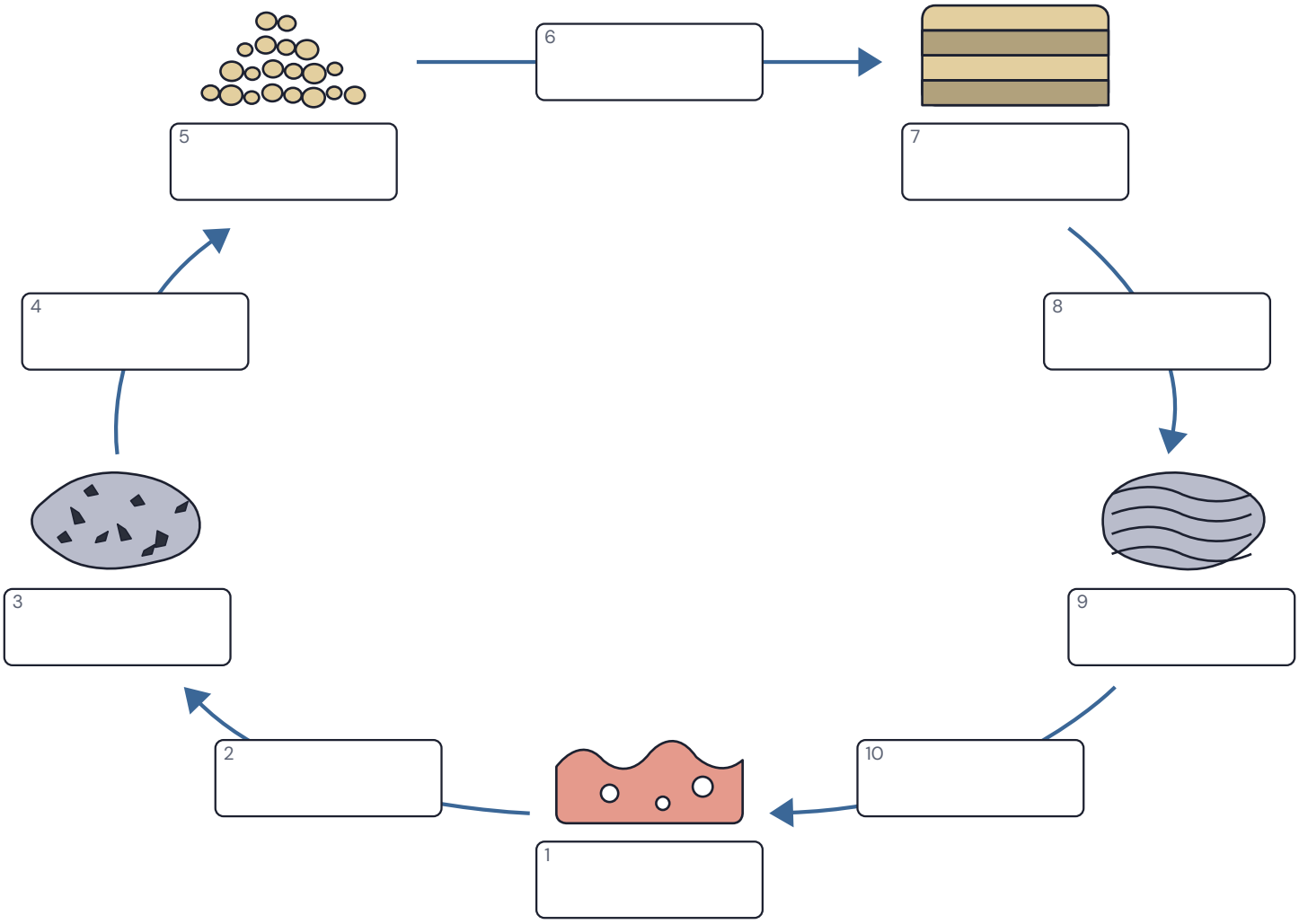
The rock cycle

Cut out the names at the bottom of the page and glue each one in its box.

Name _____ Date _____



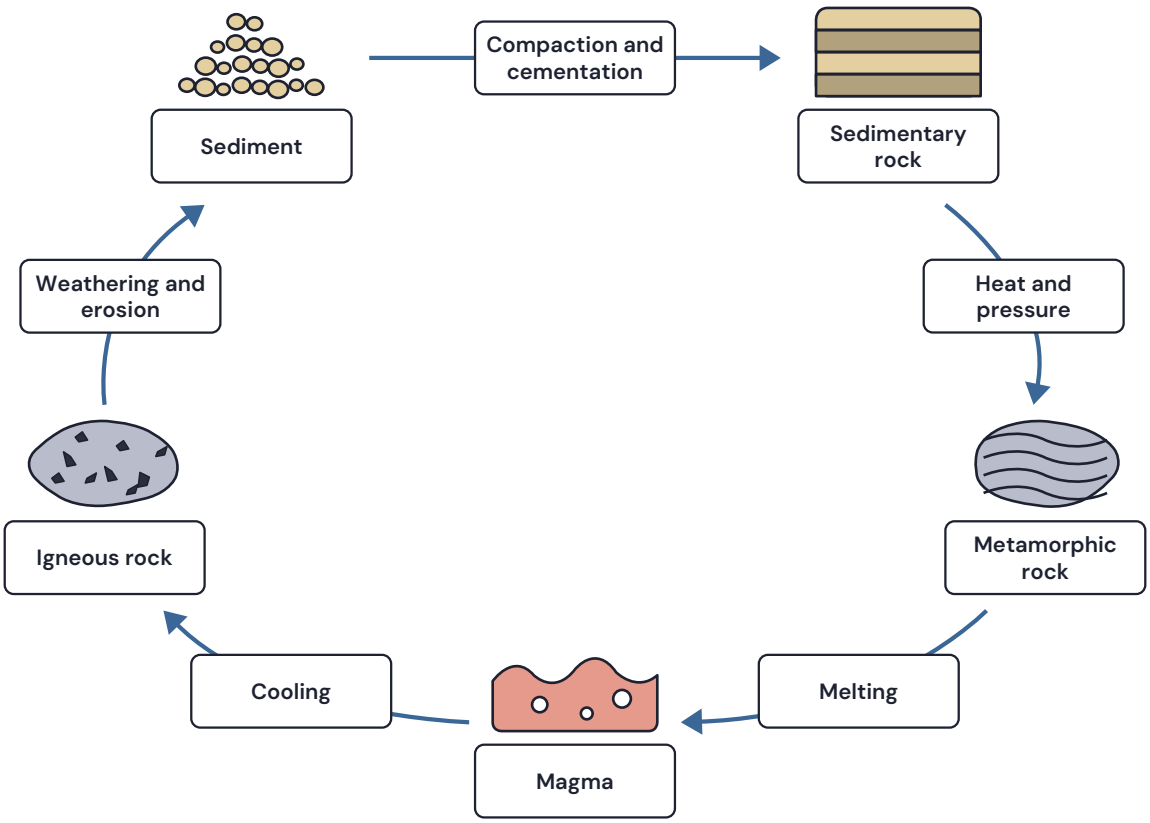
Cut out

Compaction and cementation	Cooling	Heat and pressure	Igneous rock	Magma
Melting	Metamorphic rock	Sediment	Sedimentary rock	Weathering and erosion

From the National Park Service, National Geographic Education and Wikipedia. Not to scale; granite cools for thousands or millions of years.

The rock cycle: answer key

How rock changes from one kind to another, round and round.



Magma

Molten, or melted, rock from deep inside the Earth. When it erupts at the surface, it is called lava.

Cooling

Magma loses its heat and hardens into igneous rock: slowly deep underground, or fast at the surface.

Igneous rock

Forms when magma cools and hardens. Granite, basalt and obsidian are igneous.

Weathering and erosion

Weathering breaks rock into small pieces; erosion carries them away by water, wind or ice.

Sediment

Pieces of rock, from fine clay to boulders, that settle in layers in a new place.

Compaction and cementation

Sediment buried deep is pressed tightly together and cemented into solid rock.

Sedimentary rock

Forms from layers of sediment, or from shells and plants. Sandstone, limestone and coal are sedimentary.

Heat and pressure

High heat and pressure change the minerals in a rock, making a new kind of rock.

Metamorphic rock

Rock changed from its first form by heat and pressure. Marble, quartzite and gneiss are metamorphic.

Melting

A rock pushed deep enough under the surface melts back into magma.

Rocks do not have to go round in order: under enough heat and pressure, limestone becomes marble, sandstone becomes quartzite, and granite, an igneous rock, becomes gneiss (said “nice”).

From the National Park Service, National Geographic Education and Wikipedia. Not to scale; granite cools for thousands or millions of years.