

6th Grade Chapter 2 Review

Minerals and Rocks

The repeating pattern of a mineral's particles forms a solid called a crystal.

An example of a mineral made up of a pure element is copper.

A mineral must be formed by a natural process to be considered a mineral.

The possible stages in the rock cycle are volcanic activity, erosion, smelting, and melting.



Rock that forms from the cooling of magma below the surface or lava at the surface is called igneous rock.

A hard, colorful mineral that has a brilliant or glassy luster is a gemstone.

Although brick, steel, and glass all come from substances found in Earth's crust, they are NOT classified as minerals because they are not naturally occurring.

Rocks and Weathering

The rate of chemical weathering is faster in hot, wet climates than in cold, dry climates.

The type of weathering that occurs due to release of pressure is mechanical weathering.

After chemical weathering, the chemical makeup of the weathered rock is different from that of the original rock.

The movement of rock particles by ice, wind, water, or gravity is called erosion.

Granite lasts a long time when it is used for building in areas where the climate is cool.

The most important factors in determining the rate of weathering are rock type and climate.

A rock containing iron becomes soft and crumbly and reddish-brown in color. It probably has been chemically weathered by oxygen.

Chemical weathering causes the mineral composition of rocks to change.

Ice wedging causes mechanical weathering of rock by means of freezing and thawing of water.

The agent of mechanical weathering in which rock is worn away by the grinding action of other rock abrasion.

Geologists infer from the rounded, eroded shapes of the Appalachian Mountains that the mountains have been eroding for millions of years.

How Soil Forms

A thick mass of tough roots called sod kept the fertile soil of the prairies in place and held on to moisture.

The loose layer of leaves on the surface of the soil is called litter.

The loose material on Earth's surface that contains weathered rock particles and humus is soil.

Soil is a valuable resource because it is important to all living things on land.

Most of the work of mixing humus within the soil is done by earthworms.

Living organisms in soil help to mix the soil and make humus.

In a cross section of soil, the B horizon consists of clay, minerals, and little humus.

Soil Conservation

The practice of plowing fields along the curves of a slope is called contour plowing.

To restore soil's fertility, a farmer might plant legumes as part of a soil conservation technique called crop rotation.

In conservation plowing, dead weeds and stalks of the previous year's crop left in the ground to retain moisture and hold the soil in place.

The practice of plowing fields along the curves of a slope is called contour plowing.

Plowing removed the grass from the Great Plains and exposed the soil. When a drought struck the Great Plains during the 1930s it helped to cause the Dust Bowl.