



Context clues

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

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**Context clues** are *hints to the meaning* of a difficult word. These hints can be in the same sentence or in the sentences before or after the sentence that uses the difficult word.

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As you read the story, pay attention to the underlined words, and any hints you might find about the meanings of these words.

The Rock Cycle

Rock may seem to last forever, but it is actually always changing. It is always in one of the stages of the rock cycle. This series of events in the rock cycle takes thousands of years. But the cycle is always in motion.

The pressure inside the earth produces enough heat to melt the rock there. This melted rock, or magma, seeps up into the top crust of the earth, or it erupts from volcanoes. In the earth's crust, and around the volcanoes, the magma cools into solid rock. This kind of rock is called igneous rock.

Over time, igneous rock breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces. This process, called weathering, produces soil, or sediment.

Water and wind carry the bits of soil into piles called sediment beds. This transportation of the soil to the sediment beds is called erosion. As the sediment is pressed down by more and more sediment on top, the lower levels turn into sedimentary rock.

As more and more layers of sedimentary rock are formed, the layers on the bottom are pushed down deeper. They grow hot from the pressure. Finally, they are heated into magma, and the cycle is complete—and ready to begin again.

Select which context clues give a hint to the meaning of each of these words.

1. cycle

- A. ...one of the stages...
- B. ...series of events...
- C. ...thousands of years...

2. magma

- A. ...produces enough heat...
- B. ...melted rock...
- C. ...top crust of the earth...

3. igneous rock

- A. ,,magma cools into solid rock...
- B. ...this kind of rock..
- C. ,,the earth's crust...

4. weathering

- A. ...this kind of rock...
- B. ...over time...
- C. ...breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces...

5. sediment

- A. ...process...
- B. ...soil...
- C. ...water and wind..

6. erosion

- A. ...transportation of the soil...
- B. ...sediment is pressed down...
- C. ...more sediment on top...

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7. What context clue gives you a hint to the meaning of the term "sedimentary rock"?

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## Answer Key

1. B
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. ...the sediment is pressed down...