

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

THE ROCK CYCLE with Starburst

Purpose: The purpose of this lab is to explore the rock cycle, the various types of rocks that exist on Earth and how they are formed.

Materials:

- 4 Starburst candies
- Hot plate
- Aluminum foil
- Ziploc bag
- Books (or other materials that can be used to apply pressure).

Procedure:

1. Begin by cutting or tearing each individual Starburst into pieces, or "sediment."

By breaking down these pieces of Starburst, you have mimicked the process of breaking down rocks through contact with the Earth's atmosphere, water, or organisms. What is this process called? _____

2. Take all of the pieces of sediment you have created and mix them up into a pile.

By moving all of the pieces into a pile and transporting them, you have mimicked the action of surface processes, which includes the flow of water or wind, that removes rock, from one location on Earth and then moves it away to another location. What is this process called?

3. Put all of the pieces of sediment in your hand and press them together. All of these sediments becoming cemented together creates a _____ rock.

4. Place the Starburst rock into the Ziploc bag. Add heat from your hands to the Starburst rock through the bag to make it more malleable (capable of being shaped).

5. Take a book or heavier object and apply pressure to the Starburst rock in the bag.

6. Take out the starburst rock, fold it over, place it back into the bag and then continue to apply pressure using the book or another heavy object.

This rock has been formed due to heat and pressure. It is now a _____ rock.

7. Take your piece of aluminum foil and create a small bowl with it. Place the Starburst rock inside.

8. Place the aluminum foil bowl with your Starburst rock inside on top of the hot plate using an appropriate heat (as told by your teacher).


9. Observe the Starburst rock, what is happening to it? _____

10. Rotate the Starburst rock if needed so that it melts evenly.

11. Remove the aluminum foil with the Starburst from the hot plate.

12. Set is aside and let it cool and harden.

13. While you wait for the Starburst rock to cool and harden, **illustrate** the rock cycle below:



14. Take a look at your starburst that has cooled and hardened. It is now a _____
Rock.

15. Explain how this lab helped demonstrate the rock cycle: _____
