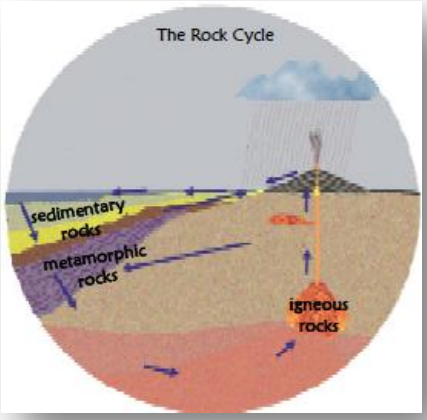
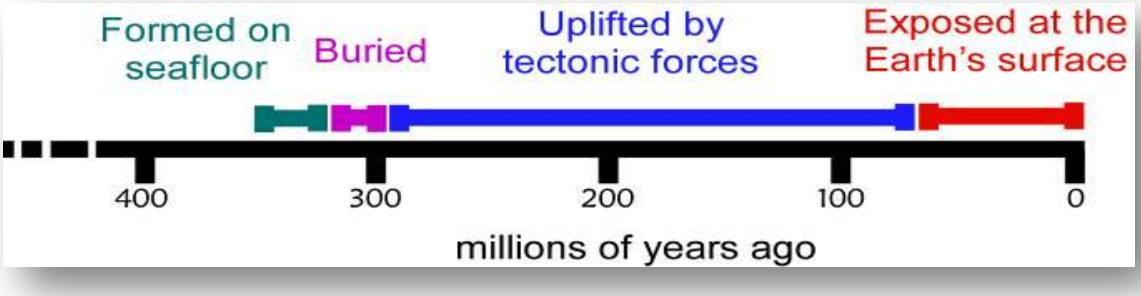
Geology Sheet 2

How the rocks were formed

Rocks are formed in three ways:



1 - By laying down (depositing) sediment particles and the remains of plants and animals (SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, e.g. limestone, mudstone, sandstone)
2 - By melting existing rocks deep underground (IGNEOUS ROCKS, e.g. granite, basalt)
3 - By deforming and distorting existing rocks deep underground (METAMORPHIC ROCKS, e.g. slate)
All of the rocks in North Clare are SEDIMENTARY ROCKS. These rocks formed in four main stages:



1 - Sediment particles such as silt, clay, and parts of plants and animals were ***deposited*** on the sea floor. These sediments were quite soft and flexible.

2 - The sediments were ***buried*** as more sediment was deposited on top of older layers of sediment. The sediments were ***compacted***: particles of sediments were packed closer together and water was squeezed out. The particles became *cemented* together as crystals grew in between them. At this point, the sediments have now been turned into rock.

3. The rocks of North Clare were gradually ***uplifted*** (pushed upwards) by tectonic forces. As they were pushed upwards, the overlying rocks were eroded away.

4. The rocks of North Clare were ***exposed*** at the Earth's surface, and were eroded and weathered by wind, rain and temperature changes.