

Metamorphic Rocks

How do they form?

- When exposed to intense heat and/or pressure inside the earth, rocks (any type) will be changed (morphed) into a new rock.
- They do not melt, they **recrystallize** when exposed to heat and pressure

Types of Metamorphism

- Regional- Occurs over large areas
- Contact- Occurs along the edges of magma or lava

Regional Metamorphism

- Can happen over large areas (even hundreds of miles)
- Caused by intense pressure involved in plate tectonics
- Crystals are squished and altered

Contact Metamorphism

- Can occur above or beneath ground
- When lava or magma comes into contact with rocks, the heat alters those rocks

Characteristics

- Foliated- banding of minerals
- Distorted due to pressure
- May have consistent color, if so, look at crystals for identification