



Introduction to Rocks

Read Pages 62-64

Topic 1 “Uniformity of Process” (page 63)

*1795 – Birth of modern Geology

*James Hutton “The present is the key to the past.”

*Uniformitarianism

1. The geologic processes now at work were also active in the past.
2. The present physical features of the Earth were formed by these same processes, at work over a long period of time.

Example: a canyon not formed from a sudden splitting catastrophe, instead, a river slowly wore away the land – and it is still happening

Topic 2 “Three Rock Groups” (page 63)

*Rock – A group of minerals bound together

1. **Igneous Rocks** – Formed by the cooling and hardening of hot molten rock from inside the Earth
2. **Sedimentary Rocks** – Formed by the compacting and cementing of layers of sediments (rock fragments, minerals, bio remains)
3. **Metamorphic Rocks** – Formed when existing rocks are changed by heat and pressure