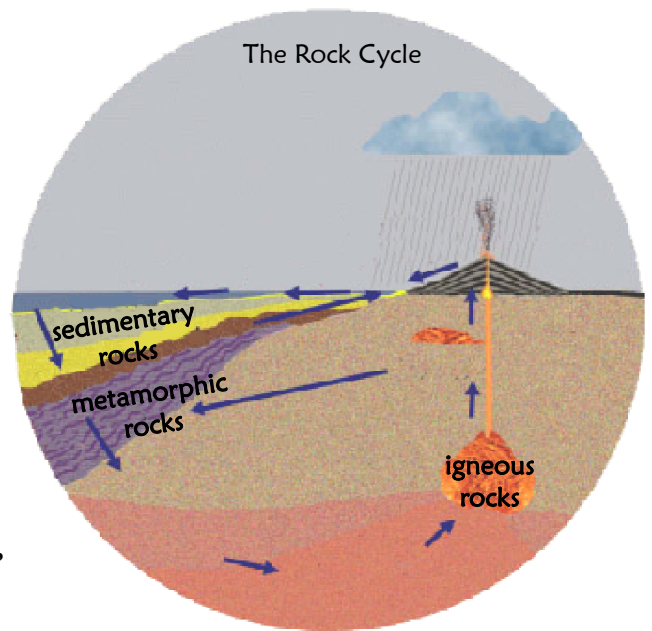


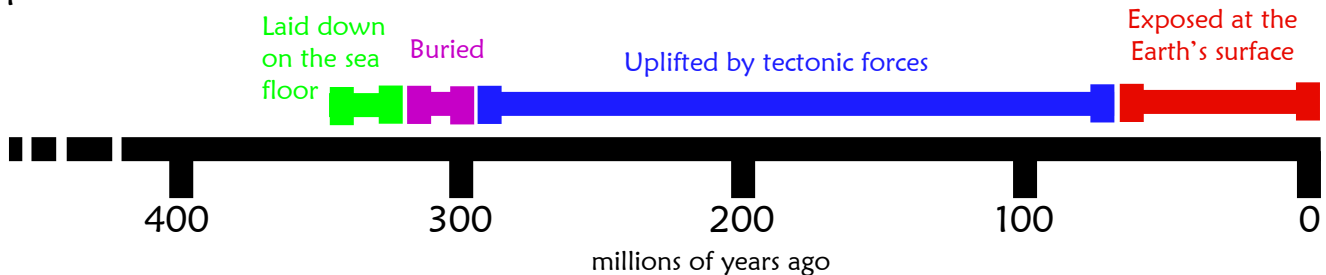
HOW THE ROCKS OF NORTH CLARE WERE FORMED

The Earth is a dynamic planet - its surface, and its interior, are constantly changing. One of the effects of this is to form new rock. Rocks are formed in three ways:

- 1 - By the laying down of sediment particles and the remains of plants and animals (PRODUCES SEDIMENTARY ROCKS, e.g. limestone, mudstone, sandstone)
- 2 - By melting existing rocks deep underground (PRODUCES IGNEOUS ROCKS, e.g. granite, basalt)
- 3 - By deforming and distorting existing rocks deep underground (PRODUCES METAMORPHIC ROCKS, e.g. slate)



All of the rocks in North Clare are SEDIMENTARY ROCKS. These rocks formed in four steps:



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

2 - The sediments were **buried** as more sediments were laid down on top. The sediments were **compacted**: the particles were pushed closer together and water was squeezed out. The particles became cemented together as salts 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.