**Chapter 8**

**Essential Question:  How can rocks tell us about Earth’s past, present and future?**

**Vocabulary:**

*mineral:*   a natural, non-living solid crystal that makes up rocks

*luster:* the way a mineral reflects light (examples: dull, pearly, metallic)

*sediment:*  eroded material (bits of rock, soil, and dead matter) that settles on land or on the bottom of lakes, rivers, and oceans.

*sedimentary rock:*  rock formed when new layers of particles settle on top of old layers and press together.

*igneous rock:* rock that is formed when molten rock cools

*metamorphic rock:*  rock that is formed from heat and pressure in the Earth

**Key concepts for study:**

* Moh’s scale is used to test hardness of minerals. A harder mineral can leave a scratch on a softer one.
* Most rocks are made of more than one type of mineral.
* Streak is a useful property for identifying minerals because the color of the streak is always the same for each different mineral, even if it comes in several colors.
* Limestone forms from tiny bits of skeletons and shells of sea animals.
* The geologic time scale is divided into four main time periods (or eras).
* Soil is a nonliving, renewable, natural resource composed of weathered rock and dead, decaying plants and animals matter.
* Weathering (such as water freezing and thawing) weakens rocks and breaks them apart, helping to make new soil.
* The rock cycle is driven by heat, pressure, reactions, weathering and erosion.
* Igneous rocks can form above or below ground. Above ground, they cool quickly forming tiny crystals. Below ground, they cool slowly, forming large crysta