

Rock Formations

There are some amazing natural rock structures in the world. They are either naturally formed or formed in various ways of erosion: (worn away) by glaciers, blowing sand in the desert, water or weathering such as wind and rain. There are three types of naturally formed rocks:

1. **Sedimentary.** This means they formed grain by grain, layer by layer, either in the water where rocks and dirt settle to the bottom or on land by erosion.
2. **Metamorphic.** This means the rocks are made from other kinds of rocks or minerals. This happens with heat, pressure and chemical reactions.
3. **Igneous.** These kinds of rocks are made when lava or molten rocks cool and become solid. Sometimes these have crystals that form in them. Erosion then forms the lines and curves of these rock formations. One igneous rock formation is Half Dome in Yosemite National Park.



A Mushroom Rock formation in Mushroom Rock State Park in Kansas. It was formed by the erosion of a harder rock on top of a softer rock. Part of the rock is sandstone.



Jug Rock

Jug Rock is made of sandstone. It is in Shoals Indiana in the Valley of the East Fork of the White River. Jug Rock is the largest free-standing table rock formation or "tea table" in the USA east of the Mississippi River. It is 60 feet high and 20 feet in diameter.



Half Dome Photo by: Rainer Hübenthal posted on Wikipedia

Rock Trivia

1. What are the three types of naturally formed rock formations?

2. What kind of rock is Half Dome in Yosemite National Park?

3. What is another name for a table rock formation like Jug Rock?

Owachomo Bridge at Natural Bridges National monument



Landscape arch at Arches National Park

