

Vocabulary: Rock Classification



Vocabulary

- Classify – to organize objects or events into groups based on common characteristics.
- Extrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock on Earth’s surface.
 - Most extrusive igneous rocks originate in volcanic eruptions.
 - Because they cool quickly, extrusive igneous rocks have small crystals or no crystals at all.
- Foliation – the texture of a metamorphic rock in which mineral grains are aligned like the pages of a book.
- Fossil – the remains or traces of a once-living organism that is preserved in rock.
- Igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock.
- Intrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock below Earth’s surface.
 - Because they cool slowly, intrusive igneous rocks have a coarse texture and large, clearly visible crystals.
- Metamorphic rock – rock that has been changed by heat and pressure.
 - Metamorphic rocks often are formed at plate boundaries and in mountain ranges.
 - Metamorphic rocks often exhibit foliation, folding, and deformation.
- Mineral – a naturally formed, inorganic solid with a crystal structure and a definite chemical composition.
 - Quartz, gold, diamond, mica, pyrite, and halite are all examples of minerals.
- Sedimentary rock – rock formed from sediments, organic remains, or chemical precipitates.
 - *Clastic* sedimentary rocks are composed of rock fragments cemented together.
 - *Organic* sedimentary rocks are composed of the remains of living organisms.
 - *Chemical* sedimentary rocks are formed from chemicals dissolved in water.
- Strata – layers of sedimentary rock that form from the deposition of sediments.
 - *Stratum* is the singular form of *strata*.
- Texture – the sizes, shapes, and positions of the grains in a rock.