

Sedimentary Rock ID Chart

Clastic Rocks: (made from pieces of older, eroded rocks)

Particle Size	ROCK NAME	Notes & Comments
mud or clay size (too small to see)	SHALE	*usually in paper-thin layers
sand	SANDSTONE	*feels like sandpaper
pebbles/ gravel	CONGLOMERATE	

Non-Clastic Rocks: (made from chemical processes)

Composition	ROCK NAME	Notes & Comments
dead plants	COAL	*black *forms in tropical swamps *Utah State Rock *mined in Utah- burned for electricity
dead coral skeletons	LIMESTONE	*often gray *forms in tropical oceans *fizzes in acid
soft angular crystals	EVAPORITE	*usually white *long, angular crystals *forms salt or gypsum
microscopic quartz crystals	CHERT	* forms where groundwater evaporates and leaves quartz crystals behind *makes fossils & petrified wood *aka. agate/geodes/tiger eye

Igneous Rock ID Chart

		Texture: ↓ crystal size	Color: Light (pink/white)	Medium (gray)	Dark (black)
Intrusive	}	Coarse: (can see most crystals)	GRANITE	DIORITE	GABBRO
		Fine: (cannot see most crystals)	RHYOLITE	ANDESITE	BASALT
Extrusive	}	Glassy			OBSIDIAN
		Bubbly	PUMICE (floats in H ₂ O)	SCORIA (sinks in H ₂ O)	

Metamorphic Rock ID Chart

		Texture	ROCK NAME	Notes & comments
thin layers	Foliated	Fine (can't see crystals)	SLATE	*forms from shale * "klinks" when hit, shale "clunks"
		Medium (can see some crystals)	SCHIST	*looks sparkly
		Coarse (can see most crystals)	GNEISS	
wide bands	non-foliated		QUARTZITE	*looks glassy *forms from sandstone *will not react to acid
			MARBLE	*forms from limestone *fizzes in acid *usually white