

Rock identification chart

Rock	Type	Notes
Granite	Igneous (intrusive)	Coarse crystals of quartz, feldspar and mica; cooled slowly underground
Basalt	Igneous (extrusive)	Fine-grained, dark; cooled quickly from lava
Obsidian	Igneous (extrusive)	Volcanic glass; cooled too fast for crystals
Pumice	Igneous (extrusive)	Frothy, full of gas holes; can float
Sandstone	Sedimentary (clastic)	Cemented sand grains
Shale	Sedimentary (clastic)	Compacted mud; splits into thin layers
Limestone	Sedimentary (chemical/biological)	Calcium carbonate, often from shells; fizzes in acid
Conglomerate	Sedimentary (clastic)	Rounded pebbles cemented together
Marble	Metamorphic (non-foliated)	Recrystallised limestone
Slate	Metamorphic (foliated)	Low-grade metamorphism of shale; splits into sheets
Schist	Metamorphic (foliated)	Medium-grade; sparkly mica flakes
Gneiss	Metamorphic (foliated)	High-grade; light and dark bands
Quartzite	Metamorphic (non-foliated)	Recrystallised sandstone; very hard

Notes