

Rock identification key and chart

Rock Identification key and chart

1. a. You can see mineral grains - go to #2.
b. Grains are too fine to see - go to #4.
2. a. Grains look melted together or interlocked - go to #3.
b. Grains look glued together (not interlocked) - go to #5.
3. a. Grains are not lined up. They are randomly scattered. The rock is igneous (granite).
b. Grains are lined up and appear to be in rows. The rock is metamorphic (gneiss or schist).
4. a. Rock is glassy or bubbly (has small holes). The rock is igneous (basalt or pumice).
b. Rock has hard, flat sheets that split off. The rock is metamorphic (slate).
c. Rock is soft and may be layered. The rock is sedimentary (shale).
d. Rock is black, soft, brittle, shiny in places. The rock is sedimentary (coal).
5. a. Grains feel gritty and are silt, sand, or pebble size. The rock is sedimentary (siltstone, sandstone or conglomerate).
b. Rock fizzes when acid is poured on and may contain fossils. The rock is sedimentary (limestone) or metamorphic (marble).

Igneous rocks



Granite



Basalt



Obsidian



Pumice

Sedimentary rocks



Conglomerate



Sandstone



Shale



Limestone

Metamorphic rocks



Quartzite



Marble



Slate



Schist

Source: http://earthnet.bio.ns.ca/activities/rock_id_e.php?topic=5



Rock Identification Chart

