

Introduction to Rocks

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What is a Rock?

- A rock is defined as:
 -

- Lets look at this definition in detail

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What is a Rock?

Coherent

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What is a Rock?

Naturally Occurring

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-

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What is a Rock?

An aggregate of minerals or a mass of glass

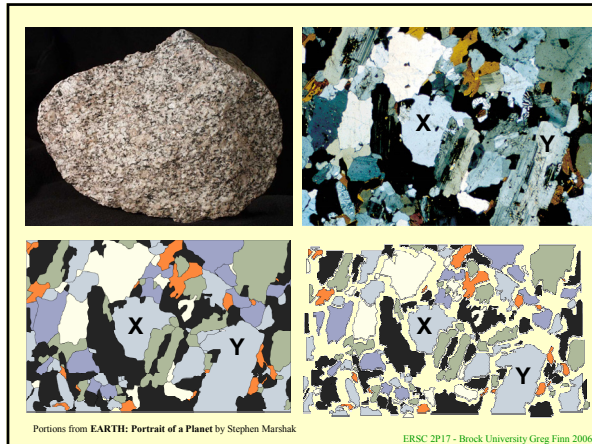
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What is a Rock?

- -
- Mineral grains in a non-glassy rock are stuck together to form a coherent mass either because
 - 1)
 - 2)

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Rock Classification

- Humans love to classify things into pigeon holes to aid in organizing and remembering details
- Classification is based on recognition of similarities and difference between objects
- Earth Scientists are no exception

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Rock Classification

- The first step in any classification of rocks is based on how the rock formed - genetic
- Three basic groups of rocks are recognized:
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 -
 -

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Igneous Rocks

- Form from




J.D. Griggs/U.S. Geological Survey

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Metamorphic Rocks

- Form when



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Sedimentary Rocks

- Form by

OR



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Rock Classification (continued)

- Rocks within each group are distinguished using physical properties
- Grain Size
 -
- Composition
 -

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Rock Classification (continued)

- Texture
 -
- Layering
 -
 -

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Rock Classification (continued)

- Result of classification is that each rock has a name which may be based on one or more of the following criteria:
 - -
 - -
 - -
 - -
 - -

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Rock Classification (continued)

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The Rock Cycle

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