

Rocks and Minerals Cheat Sheet

by Rachel (psychedxout) via cheatography.com/31385/cs/9514/

Minerals	
Potassium Feldspar H = 6	Salmon pink, white Two cleavages at about 90 degrees
Plagioclase H = 6	White to dark gray Two cleavages at almost 90 degrees Straight, parallel striations
Quartz H = 7	Conchoidal fracture Vitreous luster
Muscovite H = 2-2.5	Colorless, silvery white, brownish silvery white One perfect cleavage Transparent, flexible, and elastic in thin sheets
Biotite H = 2.5-3	Black to brownish black One perfect cleavage Flexible and elastic in thin sheets
Hornblende (Amphibole) H = 5	Black Two perfect cleavages at 124 and 56 degrees Splintery
Augite (Pyroxene) H = 5-6	Black to dark green Two imperfect cleavages at almost 90 degrees
Olivine H = 6.5-7	Olive green to yellow green Granular
Gypsum H = 2	Clear, white, light gray Vitreous to pearly
Pyrite H = 6-6.5	Metallic Brass yellow

Minerals (d	Minerals (cont)		
Calcite H = 3	Clear, white, others Three perfect cleavages form rhombic cleavage fragments Reacts strongly with HCl		
Dolomite H = 3- 3.5	Reacts slowly or not at all with HCl Three indistinct cleavages		
Halite H = 2.5	Clear to gray to red Three perfect cleavages at 90 degrees Salty taste		
Igneous Vocabulary			
Phaneritic	Coarse-grained (>1 mm)		

Igneous Vocal	oulary
Phaneritic	Coarse-grained (>1 mm)
Aphanitic	Fine-grained (<1 mm)
Pegmatitic	Exceptionally large crystals (>3 cm)
Porphyritic	Two crystal sizes
Phenocrysts	Larger crystals
Groundmass	Smaller crystals surrounding phenocrysts
Vesicular	Bubbles
Pyroclastic	Multiple fragments
Igneous Rocks	

Pyroclastic	Multiple fragments
Igneous Rocks	;
Gabbro	Intrusive, mafic
(phaneritic)	Ca-plagioclase, black
	pyroxene, olivine

Igneous Rocks	(cont)
Diorite (phaneritic)	Intrusive, intermediate Na-Ca-plagioclase and hornblende Biotite and quartz
Granite (phaneritic)	Intrusive, felsic Quartz and K-feldspar B Na-plagioclase, biotite, and hornblende
Granite (porphyritic)	Intrusive, felsic Coarse-grained Two crystal sizes
Granite pegmatite	Intrusive, felsic Very coarse-grained
Basalt (aphanitic)	Extrusive, mafic Dark gray Ca-plagioclase and olivine
Basalt (vesicular)	Extrusive, mafic Dark gray Ca-plagioclase and olivine
Andesite (porphyritic)	Extrusive, intermediate Fine-grained Gray Belagioclase and hornblende or biotite
Rhyolite	Extrusive, felsic Fine-grained version of granite
Tuff (pyroc- lastic)	Extrusive Particle size less than 6.4 cm
Obsidian (glassy)	Extrusive, felsic
Pumice	Extrusive, felsic Vesicular Very light



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Igneous Rocks (cont)

Scoria Extrusive, mafic Vesicular

Black to reddish brown

Metan	norphi	ic Voc	abular	٧

inclamorphic vocabulary		
Foliated	Parallel or nearly parallel planes	
Slaty	Foliation made of minerals to small to see without a microscope	
Phyllitic	Foliation composed of minerals visible with handlens to barely visible to naked eye	
Schistose	Foliation composed of mineral crystals large enough to see unaided	
Gneissic	Coarse foliation	

and dark minerals

Parallel band or layers of light

Metamorphic Rocks		
	Foliated	
Slate	Low grade; Very fine grained Generally dark Shale or mudstone	
Phyllite	Low grade; Fine grained Silky, shiny Shale or mudstone	
Schist	Intermediate Medium to coarse grained Shale or mudstone	
Gneiss	High grade Medium to coarse grained Shale, mudstone, or granite	
Migmatite	Border between igneous and metamorphic Medium to coarse grained	

Metamorphic Rocks (cont)

Marble	Grade varies
	Coarsely crystalline
	Limestone or
	dolostone
Quarzite	Grade varies
	Crystalline
	Quartz sandstone

Low to medium grade Anthracite coal Conchoidal fracture

Coal

Greenstone Low to medium grade Greenish gray to black Basalt or gabbro

Amphibolite Medium to high grade Dark gray to black

Medium to coarse grained

Basalt or gabbro Soapstone Low to medium grade

> Gray to dark greenish gray Fine grained; Soft

Peridotite Serpentinite Variable grade

> Greenish Mottled or streaked Peridotite

Metaconglomerate Low to medium grade Conglomerate, graywacke, chert

Hornfels Low grade; Contact Fine grained; Dark

Varies

Sedimentary Rocks

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Quartz sandstone	Sand grains of quartz White, rusty brown
Conglomerate	Made of pebbles
Limestone	Calcite
	Bubbles in acid

Sedimentary Rocks (cont)		
Shale	Fissile Black to gray, red, or green	
Dolostone	Lesser reaction with acid Crystalline Light gray or buff	
Chert	Microcrystalline quartz Conchoidal fracture	
Coal	Brown to black Noncrystalline	
Mudstone	Not fissile Black to gray, red, or green	
Sandstone	Made of sand	
Oolite	Limestone Sand-sized spheres	
Coquina	Limestone Poorly cemented bioclastic debris	
Breccia	Angular particles	
Rock Gypsum	White, light gray Crystalline	

Sedimentary Vocabulary

Clastic	Clasts bound together
Bioclastic	Abundant fossils or fossil fragments
Crystalline	Interlocking crystals
Fissile	Splits into sheets



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Shale, mudstone, or granite

Nonfoliated

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