

ROCK CLASSIFICATION CHART

ROCK CATEGORY	FORMATION PROCESS	KEY CHARACTERISTICS	COMMON EXAMPLES
Sedimentary	Formed by the accumulation and lithification of mineral particles or organic matter.	Distinct layers (strata), may contain fossils, often grainy or gritty texture.	<i>Sandstone, Limestone, Shale</i>
Igneous	Formed through the cooling and solidification of magma or lava.	Crystalline structure, random arrangement of minerals, no layers.	<i>Basalt, Granite, Obsidian</i>
Metamorphic	Formed when existing rocks are subjected to intense heat and pressure.	Foliated (layered) or non-foliated, dense, often shows wavy patterns.	<i>Marble, Slate, Quartzite</i>