

IGNEOUS ROCK INFORMATION

GRANITE- Feldspar, quartz, and black mica can be easily recognized in this rock. Many granites are attractively colored and can be used as building stones

DIORITE- This medium grained, dark colored rock is often broken and used for road ballast.

SCORIA- This is a volcanic slag formed in the same manner as pumice but having fewer and larger cavities. It is harder, heavier, and darker than pumice. Scoria, pumice and obsidian all come from volcanoes.

RHYOLITE PORPHYRY- Small crystals of quartz and feldspar formed, then the lava was suddenly cooled so no more visible crystals were formed. The surrounding VERY tiny crystals are called groundmass and are quite dense.

BASALT- Basalts are very fine-grained, dark colored rocks. They usually harden from lava flows and may contain gas cavities. This rock makes up the ocean floor.

RHYOLITE- This is a very fine grained, light colored rock formed like basalt, but of a different mineralogical composition.

PUMICE- A light frothy lava containing so many air cells that it readily floats on water. When this lava was still a molten liquid, it contained thousands of trapped air bubbles, which were not able to escape as the lava hardened.

OBSIDIAN- This is a volcanic glass formed from quick-cooling lavas. It cools so quickly it does not form any crystals at all. Sometimes it is streaked with brown, showing flow structure. Primitive people often used obsidian for knives, arrowheads and other implements.