

SEDIMENTARY ROCK INFORMATION

CLAY- This is composed of extremely minute (tiny) mineral grains. (mineral grains=sediments) Some clays are formed of very finely pulverized rocks.

TRAVERTINE- Water with dissolved calcium carbonate in it drips from the roofs of caves and forms icicle-shaped stalactites. (The formations that are on the bottom of a cave are called stalagmites.) This type of travertine may have layers of different colors. Another type of travertine forms when water from springs deposit calcium carbonate causing the travertine to have a "spongy" texture and large number of holes, varying in size and shape. Travertine colors are usually light ivory and beige.

GRAVEL- Gravel is a sediment that is intermediate in size between sand and cobblestones.

QUARTZ CONGLOMERATE- This is a typical conglomerate (collection of many different mineral chunks) and is composed of quartz, gravel, and quartz sand that have been cemented by natural silica to form rock.

SHALE- Black shales separate many coal beds. Fossilized plant remains may be present. Shale is formed from clay that is compacted together by pressure and sometimes has a laminate (layered) look.

GYPSUM- This rock is so soft that it can be scratched with one's finger nail. It is composed of the mineral gypsum, and it is used to manufacture of plaster and drywall.

SANDSTONE- This is consolidated (collected together) sand. Its color makes it an attractive building stone.

SHELL LIMESTONE- This rock is composed of many fossil shells

DOLOMITIC LIMESTONE- Many limestones will "fizz" when a drop of dilute acid is place on the surface, but this one will not because it is composed of the mineral "dolomite."