

DESCRIBING ROCKS

Some of the characteristics geologists use to describe rocks are color, texture, crystal or grain size, veining, and angularity or rounding. Investigating the following questions can help you identify a rock:

- Is the rock made up of interlocking crystals, sedimentary grains, or glassy?
- How big are the crystals or grains and are they all the same size or different sizes?
- Are there veins or vesicles (gas bubbles), and if so, what are their colors?
- Is the rock angular or rounded?

Texture/Grain Size					
Very fine crystals with some larger visible crystals	Uniform visible crystals	Fine sedimentary grains or clay	Sand-size sedimentary grains	Glassy	
					
Veins			Rounding		
Fibrous veins	White mineral vein and mineral-filled gas bubbles	Gas bubbles with no material filling them	Angular outline	Rounded outline	
					