



4/10/2014	Rock Notes
Major Key Term	definition in own words
Key Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definition in own words • facts • pictures
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Classifying Rocks

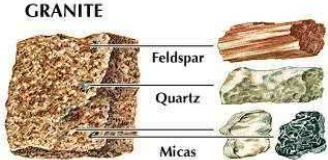
- Geologists classify rocks by composition, color, and texture
 - You have to break open a rock and look inside, as weathering can change the outside of a rock

Composition



- **Composition:** what minerals, or other substances, is the rock made of?
 - Some rocks are made of only one mineral
 - Some rocks are a mixture of several minerals and other substances

GRANITE



Color

- A rock's color provides clues to its mineral composition.
 - Granite – light colored, high in silica
 - Basalt – dark colored, low in silica
- Color is not enough, many rocks have similar colors but different compositions

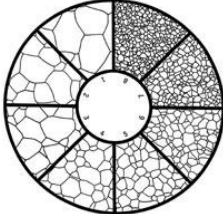



Texture

- Rocks are made of particles of minerals, called grains
- **Texture** is the look and feel of a rock, determined by the grains inside, we study

Texture

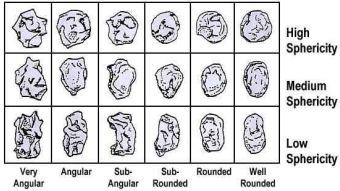
- **Grain Size**
 - Fine-grained: very small grains
 - Coarse-grained: very large grains



Texture

- **Grain Shape**

- Can be shaped by crystal shapes or by broken fragments of rocks or minerals
- Can be smooth and rounded or sharp and jagged



Texture



- **Grain Pattern**

- The grains in a rock can form many different patterns
- Flat layers, swirling lines, bands, different colors, randomly spaced grains



How Rocks Form

