

Regional Science Consortium

Rocks and Minerals

Vocabulary

1. **Cleavage** – The tendency of a mineral to break along planes in its structure resulting in a smooth flat surface.
2. **Consolidate** – To combine into a single more effective or coherent whole.
3. **Foliation** – The parallel arrangement of mineral grains in a rock leading to repetitive layering or a striped appearance.
4. **Hardness** – A mineral's ability to resist its surface being scratched or punctured.
5. **Homogenous** – Of uniform structure or composition throughout.
6. **Igneous Rock** – Formed from solidified molten material.
7. **Inorganic** – Not consisting of or deriving from living matter.
8. **Lithification** – The process by which sediments compact under pressure and gradually become solid rock.
9. **Luster** – How the surface of a mineral reflects light.
10. **Metamorphic Rock** – Begins as a sedimentary or igneous rock but is transformed into a new kind of rock when exposed to extreme temperatures and pressure.
11. **Rock** – Consolidated material consisting of one or more minerals categorized depending on origin of creation.
12. **Sediment** – Any material that is transported and deposited in a new location by water, wind, or glaciers.
13. **Sedimentary Rock** – Formed by the lithification of accumulated sediments.
14. **Special Properties** – Characteristics some minerals possess that others do not, these characteristics can include magnetism, elasticity, reactions to acid, fractures, taste, and odor.
15. **Streak** – The color of a mineral's powder.