

Identifying Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic Rocks by Their Characteristics

Igneous

1. Holes—Gases trapped in the rock when it was cooling.
2. Heavy—Metal is in the rock
3. Light weight—Foamy lava; has air in it; not packed together well
4. Glassy—Quick cooling of the rock
5. Large crystals—Slow cooling of the rock
6. Small crystals—Faster cooling of the rock
7. No crystals—Instant cooling of the rock

Sedimentary

8. Layers—Formed at the bottom of a lake or ocean
9. Fossils—Small sea animals fell into the sediments
10. Creamy looking—Organic matter in the rock
11. Small rocks—Small rocks are cemented together to make a larger rock
12. Small sparkles everywhere—individual sand or dirt particles making up the rock
13. Cannot see the small crystal very well—rock made out of clay

Metamorphic

14. Large crystals—Slow cooling of the rock
15. Bands of different crystals—gathering of the different minerals together as the rock was under heat and pressure
16. Shiny—Extended slow cooling of the rock