**Vocabulary:** **Rock Classification**

dictionary2

**Vocabulary**

* Classify – to organize objects or events into groups based on common characteristics.
* Extrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock on Earth’s surface.
  + Most extrusive igneous rocks originate in volcanic eruptions.
  + Because they cool quickly, extrusive igneous rocks have small crystals or no crystals at all.
* Foliation – the texture of a metamorphic rock in which mineral grains are aligned like the pages of a book.
* Fossil – the remains or traces of a once-living organism that is preserved in rock.
* Igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock.
* Intrusive igneous rock – rock formed from the cooling of molten rock below Earth’s surface.
  + Because they cool slowly, intrusive igneous rocks have a course texture and large, clearly visible crystals.
* Metamorphic rock – rock that has been changed by heat and pressure.
  + Metamorphic rocks often are formed at plate boundaries and in mountain ranges.
  + Metamorphic rocks often exhibit foliation, folding, and deformation.
* Mineral – a naturally formed, inorganic solid with a crystal structure and a definite chemical composition.
  + Quartz, gold, diamond, mica, pyrite, and halite are all examples of minerals.
* Sedimentary rock – rock formed from sediments, organic remains, or chemical precipitates.
  + *Clastic* sedimentary rocks are composed of rock fragments cemented together.
  + *Organic* sedimentary rocks are composed of the remains of living organisms.
  + *Chemical* sedimentary rocks are formed from chemicals dissolved in water.
* Strata – layers of sedimentary rock that form from the deposition of sediments.
  + *Stratum* is the singular form of *strata*.
* Texture – the sizes, shapes, and positions of the grains in a rock.
* Vesicle­ – an air pocket that forms as an extrusive igneous rock rapidly cools and hardens.