

Metamorphic Rocks, Sedimentary Rocks, & Geologic Maps; Stream Processes, Topographic Maps, and Interpreting Geologic Processes from Maps and Rocks

Terms in **boldface** indicate that you should know the meaning, in context.

Be able to examine **outcrop patterns** on a **geologic map**, and correlate map information to the map legend, to determine the geologic processes that have affected an area, including:

- what type(s) of rocks are present, and what types of environments do they represent (ocean? beach? volcano? other?)
- what is the **relative age** of rock formations present (oldest? youngest?)
- recognize the presence of flat/ horizontal sedimentary layers, exposed by stream erosion
- when horizontal sedimentary rocks are present, be able to use the **geologic contacts** to determine direction of stream flow (in the absence of contour lines)
- recognize **folded** sedimentary layers, and be able to distinguish **anticline** from **syncline**; *plunging fold from non-plunging fold*
- recognize an area representing igneous activity: extrusive vs. intrusive rocks
- You should be able to recognize common rock names, and to be able to associate each with the correct rock type represented (**sedimentary; igneous – intrusive vs. extrusive; metamorphic**):

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|--------------|------------------|
| <i>granite</i> | <i>basalt</i> | <i>sandstone</i> | <i>shale</i> | <i>limestone</i> |
| <i>schist</i> | <i>marble</i> | any rock called “meta-(something)” - is metamorphic! | | |
- from map information (including rock types and geologic structures), be able to comment on possible *tectonic processes* responsible for the geology of an area; be able to *explain/ justify* your interpretation (e.g., *divergent, convergent, transform, not a boundary*)

Be able to explain why *sedimentary* rocks and **volcanic** rocks might exhibit a similar relationship between oldest/ youngest rocks in a sequence of layers, and why *metamorphic* and *intrusive* rocks would not be expected to have the same pattern

Be able to illustrate and explain the interpretation of various patterns seen on geologic maps:

“blobs”; “bulls-eye”; “stripes”; “swirls”; “maple leaf”

** We saw a kind of ‘blob’ pattern on the Washington map **and** on the Illinois map – but the interpretation of each of these areas is very different. What important map information is used to determine which of the two interpretations fits each of these map areas?

Be able to describe each of the following rock textures, tell what they reveal about how the rock was formed, and recognize their appearance in rocks:

detrital vs. chemical **fossiliferous** **fissility** **foliated**

Be able to describe the changes in foliated textures observed in the sequence of rocks that represent an increasing degree of metamorphism: *slate* → *phyllite* → *schist* → *gneiss*

What is **foliation**? What two, specific factors are both necessary in order to develop a foliated rock texture?

So, what **protolith** characteristics, and what kind of **tectonic setting** would be needed to create the sequence of foliated metamorphic rocks listed above?

While we have not spent a lot of time identifying specific minerals, we understand that mineral properties are important to recognizing some of the important rock-forming minerals.

Be able to define: **hardness** **cleavage** **streak**

Be able to describe the types of evidence that we can gather (either from actual mineral/ rock samples, or from various types of maps) for a material’s **resistance to weathering**

- “All rocks are classified and named on the basis of their **texture** and **composition**”... what, exactly, does this mean?
- Be able to describe ways that composition and texture of a rock influence its resistance to weathering, and to give examples.
- What are we really testing with *acid reaction*? Why is *acid reaction* a useful test only for certain, specific rocks and minerals?

