ROCK TYPES

5. Quartzite
7. Red sedimentary rocks*
8. Limestone
11. Limestone or dolomite*
13. Shale and siltstone
14. Sandstone*
15. Shale or siltstone*
16. Sandstone, conglomerate
17. Sandstone, conglomerate*
18. Mixture of rock types*

*See page 2 for a complete description.
**Glossary**

**Calcareaous.** Contains calcium carbonate (calcite) or calcium magnesium carbonate (dolomite). Will fizz when diluted hydrochloric acid (HCl) is placed on a sample. Calcite will fizz vigorously. Dolomite will fizz gently. Limestone, dolomite, and marble are common calcareaous rocks. Other rocks may also be calcareaous.

**Claystone.** A sedimentary rock in which more than 50 percent of the particles are less than 0.00015 inch diameter. Grains are too small to be visible as individuals, giving the rock a smooth appearance. It looks like clay that has been hardened into rock. It does not have the fine layering of shale.

**Coal.** A black, relatively lightweight rock composed of accumulations of plant matter converted by pressure and heat.

**Conglomerate.** A sedimentary rock with rounded pebbles that are greater than 0.08 inch diameter. It has an appearance somewhat like concrete, with pebbles cemented together by finer grained material.

**Dolomite.** A sedimentary rock composed of magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), and carbonate (CO\(_2\)). Also called dolostone. It reacts to dilute hydrochloric acid but not as vigorously as limestone or marble. Surfaces that have been powdered by scratching (or by scraping during drilling) may react more readily. Dolomite is generally gray or tan in color. Grain size ranges from small, visible crystals to grains that are too small to see individually.

**Dike.** A tabular body of igneous rock that cuts across the bedding or foliation of the surrounding rock. Most dikes in Pennsylvania are composed of diabase, a dark-colored igneous rock.

**Foliated.** A property of metamorphic rocks where a planar feature exists, due to either the orientation of platy grains or the separation of different minerals into bands. Foliated rocks include slate, phyllite, schist, and gneiss.

**Gneiss.** A metamorphic rock characterized by alternating light- and dark-colored bands. Color is determined by the minerals present in each layer. One color usually predominates, such that a gneiss can be categorized as either a light or dark crystalline rock. The mineral grains in a gneiss are large enough to be easily visible. Most of the grains are relatively equidimensional, meaning that they are of similar size and shape.

**Limestone.** A sedimentary rock composed of calcium (Ca) and carbonate (CO\(_2\)). Its most obvious defining characteristic is that it reacts vigorously to dilute hydrochloric acid. Limestone is generally gray or tan in color, although it can be dark gray or black. Grain size ranges from small, visible crystals to grains that are too small to see individually. Limestone may contain fragments of fossil shells.

**Marble.** Metamorphosed limestone and dolomite. Marble is composed of large crystals of calcite or dolomite that sparkle when light reflects off the flat surfaces of the crystals. Marble is a very fine-grained material. It looks like sand held together by cement. Sandstones can be found in a variety of shades of white, gray, and brown. Marble generally contains flakes of golden-brown or white mica. It reacts to dilute hydrochloric acid. Marble can be scratched by a knife.

**Mica.** A series of minerals that form thin sheets. Mica is found as layers in schist, phyllite, and some gneisses, and as flakes in marble and some sandstones. Several varieties that are common in Pennsylvania are white (usually appears silver-gray), black, or golden-brown. Mica has a glassy or metallic appearance.

**Phyllite.** A fine- to medium-grained, layered metamorphic rock. Mica grains are just large enough to be visible. Rock surfaces are smooth and have a satiny sheen. Layers tend to be fairly planar, and the rock splits easily along them. The most common colors are silvery gray or greenish gray.

**Quartzite.** A very hard sedimentary or metamorphic rock composed almost entirely of quartz. In metamorphic quartzite, quartz grains are interlocked like puzzle pieces. Grains are usually relatively large. In sedimentary quartzite, sand-sized quartz grains are cemented together by fine-grained material of the same composition. Quartzite is generally white or beige. Quartzite is harder than steel and cannot be scratched by a knife.

**Sandstone.** A sedimentary rock in which more than 50 percent of the particles are sand size (0.002–0.08 in. diameter). It looks like sand held together by cement. Sandstones can be found in a variety of shades of white, red, green, and gray.

**Schist.** A metamorphic rock dominated by coarse-grained mica arranged in layers. The layers tend to be wavy or bumpy and are separated by granular layers usually dominated by quartz. Large crystals of other minerals are common. One of these is garnet—a dark-red, rounded, pinhead- to pea-size or larger mineral. Rock surfaces are shiny, sparkly, or sequined appearance. Schist usually appears silver-gray due to the abundant mica.

**Shale.** A finely layered sedimentary rock similar in grain size to claystone but breaks out into thin sheets or plates parallel to the layers. Shale is found in many shades of gray, black, red, and green.

**Siltstone.** A sedimentary rock in which more than 50 percent of the particles are silt size (0.00015–0.002 in. diameter). Visually indistinguishable from shale and claystone; it feels slightly gritty between the teeth.

**Slate.** A very fine grained, layered metamorphic rock that splits into thin sheets. Grains are too small to be individually visible, giving the rock a smooth appearance. Surfaces are dull and tend to be flat. The most common colors are black and shades of gray. Slate is commonly used for roofing and pavers. In Pennsylvania, slate is found only in the southeastern quarter of the state.