






Rock Textures and What They Tell

Texture	Picture	Description	Interpretation
Bubbly		Full of holes shaped like bubbles	Volcano erupted gas-filled lava, which cooled with gas bubbles intact. - <i>Igneous (extrusive)</i>
Glassy		Looks like glass; has sharp edges and curved surfaces when broken	Volcano erupted lava that cooled within hours or days, leaving no time for even microscopic crystals to grow. - <i>Igneous (extrusive)</i>
Interlocking		Grains fit together as in a jigsaw puzzle	Magma cooled slowly underground, letting crystals grow over the years - <i>Igneous (intrusive)</i> OR extreme heat and pressure caused solid rock gradually to recrystallize - <i>Metamorphic (high grade)</i>
Clastic (grains rounded)		Made of rock pieces stuck together (pieces have smooth surfaces without sharp edges)	Older rock was broken down by weathering and erosion; pieces were rolled until they became rounded, during long transport by water or wind - <i>Sedimentary (detrital)</i>
Clastic (grains angular)		Made of rock pieces stuck together (pieces have rough, jagged surfaces)	Rock was broken, maybe by explosion such as a volcanic eruption; pieces were deposited suddenly without rounding - <i>Igneous (extrusive) or Sedimentary (detrital)</i>
Fossil "hash"		Made of hard parts of organisms, e.g., shells, or sections of crinoid stems (a flowerlike sea animal)	Environment was rich in life; hard parts built up as animals died - <i>Sedimentary (organic)</i>
Foliated		Layered, like the pages of a book; may show light/dark banding, or lining up of grains	Older rock recrystallized under heat and pressure, with new minerals lining up at right angles to pressure direction - <i>Metamorphic</i>

