Rock Identification Key

http://geology.com/rocks/
Q1

Is the rock made of crystal gains?

Yes
Go to 2

No
Go to 3
Q2

Does the rock have both layers and crystal grains?

Yes
Go to 4

No
Go to 5
Q3

Does the rock have layers but **not** crystal grains?

Yes  
Go to 11

No  
Go to 12
Q4

Do the layers look like ribbons or bands of minerals running through the rock; and is the rock kind of blocky?

Yes
Go to 23

No
Go to 24
Q5

Is the entire rock mostly light coloured, compared to other rocks?

Yes
Go to 6

No
Go to 7
Q6

Can you scratch glass with the rock?

Yes
Go to 9

No
Go to 25
Q7

Is the rock mostly light or medium gray, not very dark gray or black?

Yes  Go to 31

No   Go to 8
Q8

Can you see crystal grains in most or all of the rock without using a magnifier?

Yes  Go to 10  

No   Go to 32
Q9

Can you see crystal grains in most or all of the rock without using a magnifier?

Yes
Go to 30

No
Go to 29
Is the rock coarse grained?

Yes
Go to 34

No
Go to 33
Using the point of a steel nail, can you scrape grains of sand off the rock?

Yes  Go to 38
No  Go to 13
Q12

Does the rock have gas bubbles in it?

Yes
Go to 15

No
Go to 17
Q13

Does the rock look like it is composed of mostly only one mineral and has many thin flat layers?

Yes  Go to 27

No  Go to 14
Q14

Is the rock definitely green in colour, and does it feel slippery?

Yes  Go to 28

No   Go to 39
Q15

Is the rock light in weight and mostly light coloured (probably gray)?

- Yes
  Go to 35

- No
  Go to 16
Q16

Is the rock dark coloured, glassy, with gas bubbles in it?

Yes  
Go to 36

No   
Go to 32
Q17

Does the rock look like black glass with no bubbles in it?

Yes
Go to 37

No
Go to 18
Q18

Using the point of a steel nail, sand can be scraped off the rock. ?

Yes
Go to 19

No
Go to 20
Q19

Does the rock contain sand and larger pieces of rock or pebbles?

Yes
Go to 22

No
Go to 38
Q20

Can the rock scratch glass?

Yes
Go to 21

No
Go to 40
21. Is the rock white, yellowish, tan, or reddish?

Yes
Go to 26

No
Go to 32
Q22

Are the larger pieces of rock (that are mixed with the sand) rounded pebbles, not blocky or jagged?

Yes
Go to 41

No
Go to 42
Q23

GNEISS (metamorphic)
Q24

**SCHIST** (metamorphic)
MARBLE (metamorphic)
Q26

QUARTZITE (metamorphic)
Q27
SLATE (metamorphic)
Q28

SERPENTINITE (metamorphic)
Q29

RHYOLITE (Igneous)
Q30

GRANITE (Igneous)
Q31

DIORITE (Igneous)
BASALT (Igneous)
Q33

DIABASE (Igneous)
Q34

GABBRO (Igneous)
Q35

PUMICE (Igneous)
Q36

**SCORIA** (Igneous)

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Q37

OBSIDIAN (Igneous)
Q38

SANDSTONE (Sedimentary)
Q39

SHALE (Sedimentary)
LIMESTONE
(Sedimentary)
Q41

CONGLOMERATE
(Sedimentary)
Q42

BRECCIA (Sedimentary)