

PENNSYLVANIA



ROCKS



Pennsylvania is home to many different igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. You can start a rock collection of some typical Pennsylvania rocks. All you need is to spend some time exploring different areas of the state, a container to keep the rocks in, an identification key and a system to document your collection. Start your rock search, document where the rock was found, describe its texture, shape, color and composition, identify it, preserve it and then figure out what story your rock has to tell about Earth's past. Look for these common Pennsylvania rocks...

Sedimentary Rocks

Sedimentary rocks are formed on or near the Earth's surface, either in water or on land. They are layered accumulations of sediments, fragments of rocks, minerals, or animal or plant material, broken down through erosion and weathering. Sedimentary rocks often contain fossils, as organisms were buried under the layers of accumulating sediment.



Sandstone



Shale



Limestone



Dolomite

Igneous Rocks

Igneous rocks are formed from melted rock that has cooled and solidified. When rocks are buried deep within the Earth, they melt because of the high temperature and pressure. A wide variety of igneous rocks are formed by different cooling rates and the different chemical compositions of the original magma.



Diabase



Granite



Basalt

Metamorphic Rocks

Sometimes sedimentary and igneous rocks are subjected to high heat and pressure within the Earth so that they change, becoming metamorphic rocks. The heat does not melt the rocks, but instead transforms them into a new rock. Metamorphic rocks are completely different from their original sedimentary or igneous form.



Gneiss



Argillite



Marble



Slate