



**ROCK-LOGY**

The Hard Facts  
About Rocks

# What Are Rocks Made Of?

by Ellen Lawrence



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**by Ellen Lawrence**

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# Let's Look at Rocks

There are thousands of different kinds of rocks on Earth.

They can be many different colors.

Some look dull, while others look sparkly.

Why do rocks look so different from one another?

Let's find out—what are all those rocks made of?





A large, vertical granite cliff face, likely El Capitan, with a yellow callout box pointing to the top. The rock is light gray with vertical fissures and some darker, shadowed areas. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

El Capitan

El Capitan is a giant rock in Yosemite National Park in California. It is made of a kind of rock called granite.

What words would you use to describe the granite rock in El Capitan?



# Made of Minerals

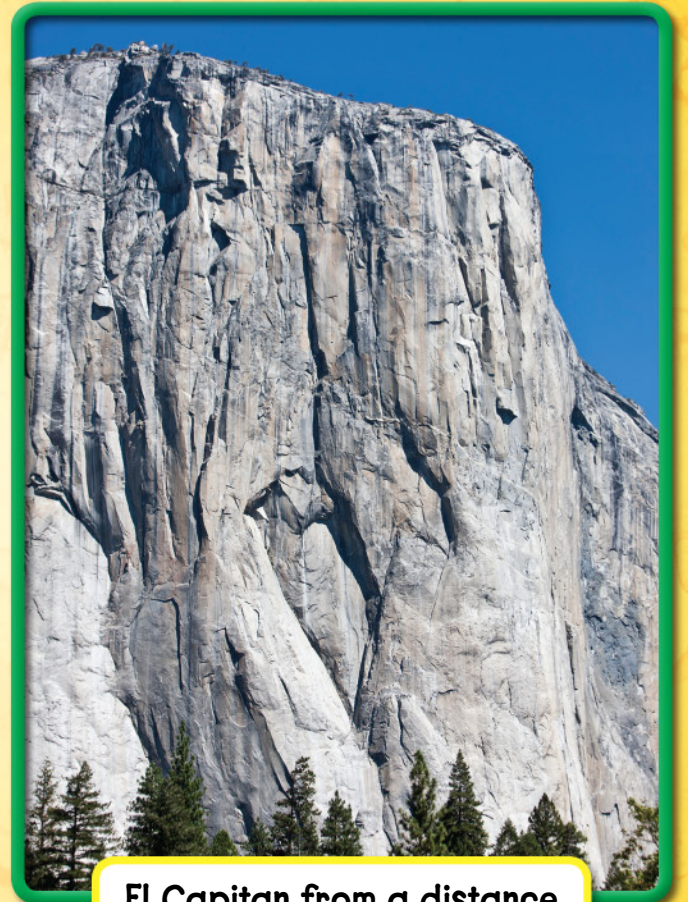
From a distance, the granite rock in El Capitan looks gray.

If you stand close to the rock, though, it looks speckled with black, gray, and white.

If you looked at the rock through a powerful **microscope**, you could see even more.

You would see that the rock is made of billions of tiny grains.

Each grain is made of a substance called a **mineral**.



El Capitan from a distance



granite rock up close

granite rock seen through  
a powerful microscope

mineral  
grains

Each of  
the mineral  
grains in this picture  
is actually smaller  
than a grain of  
sand.



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## Read More

**Morganelli, Adrianna.** *Minerals*. New York: Crabtree (2004).

**Owen, Ruth.** *Science and Craft Projects with Rocks and Soil (Get Crafty Outdoors)*. New York: PowerKids Press (2013).

**Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner.** *Rocks and Minerals*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic (2012).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about rocks and minerals, visit  
[www.bearportpublishing.com/Rock-ology](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/Rock-ology)

## About the Author

Ellen Lawrence lives in the United Kingdom. Her favorite books to write are those about nature and animals. In fact, the first book Ellen bought for herself, when she was six years old, was the story of a gorilla named Patty Cake that was born in New York's Central Park Zoo.



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# What Are Rocks Made Of?

Rocks that are lying on the ground might look gray and boring. If you zoom in on them with a microscope, though, you will see lots of colorful little pieces. Look inside to find out how these tiny pieces—called minerals—make up all the rocks on Earth. You'll also get a look at new cars, ancient gold coins, and sparkling rubies, emeralds, and diamonds—since all of these are made up of minerals from rocks, too.

**Baking and Crushing**  
A Look at Metamorphic Rock

**Famous Rocks**

**How Do People Use Rocks?**

**How Do Volcanoes Make Rock?**  
A Look at Igneous Rock

**How Do Water and Wind Change Rock?**  
A Look at Sedimentary Rock

**Is Sand a Rock?**

**What Are Rocks Made Of?**

**What Is the Rock Cycle?**

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