



Rocks

Granite

Type:

Igneous, intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Massive, medium to coarse-grained; holocrystalline, sometimes porphyritic.

Color:

White, light gray, pink, or red.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Felsic; composed primarily of quartz (20-60%), K-feldspar (14-80%), plagioclase (0-53%), and mafic minerals (commonly biotite) (0-35%). May also contain abundant amounts of rare accessory minerals.

Occurrence/Use:

Found widely distributed in orogenic belts of continental crust, ranging from small intrusions to enormous batholiths. Generally, granites have their origins in melted aluminosilicate rich rocks. They are most widespread surface rocks on the Earth's continents, with major occurrences in the Precambrian shields of Europe, Canada, Brazil, and Africa, and in a variety of outcrops in the western U.S., the Appalachians, and New England. Used extensively as a building stone.