

Marble

Marble is one of the most sophisticated types of stones. It is a metamorphic rock.

When used in architecture it is usually smooth and polished, but it can come in a rough texture.

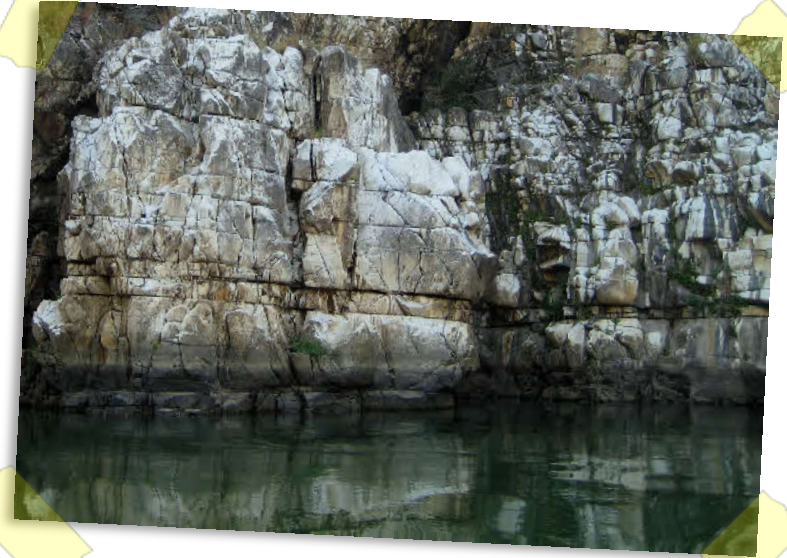


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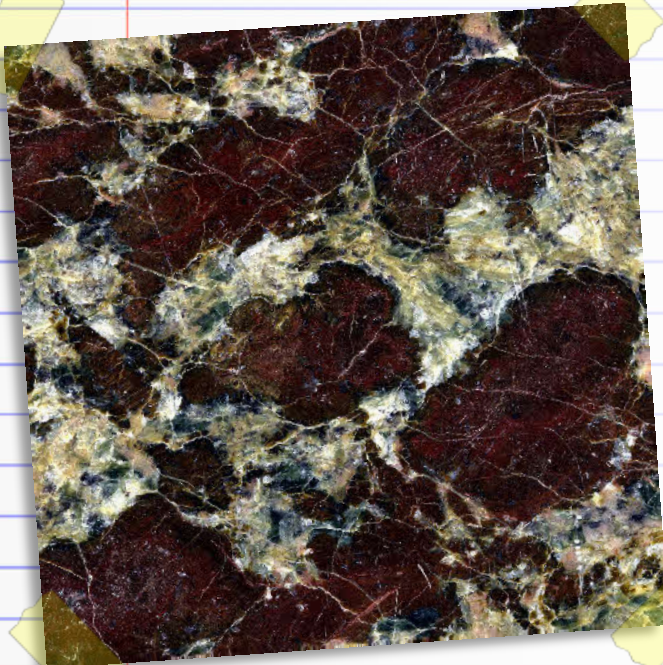


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It is a kind of limestone that has become very solid and highly compressed. This allows it to be cut and polished easily.

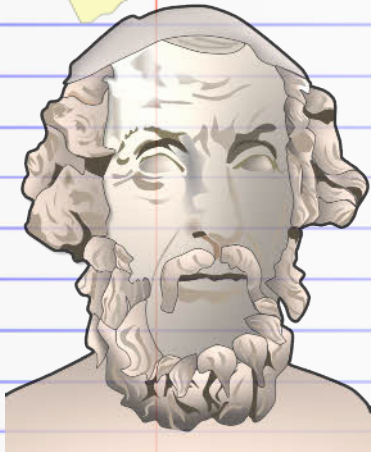
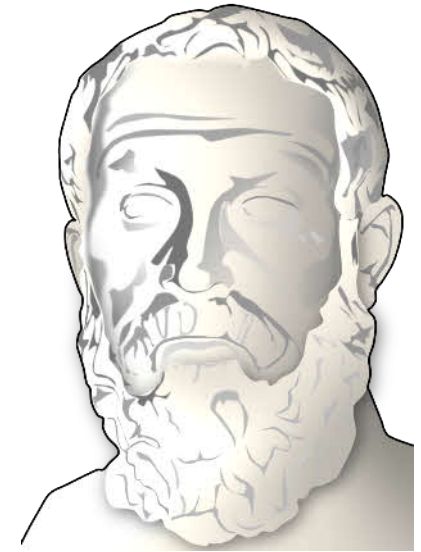
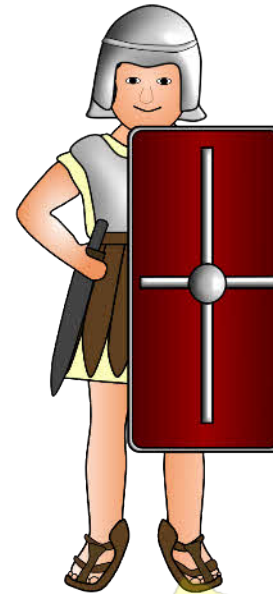
It has a beautiful crystal structure which can be seen when the rock is cut open.

Marble
Rock

In history, the ancient Greeks and Romans used a lot of marble in their buildings and artwork.



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Today, marble is mostly used in home furnishings such as flooring, clocks and tables.



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Granite

Granite is an igneous rock that is often used in building. It is very common and quarried all around the world.



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It is one of the hardest types of rock which means it is very durable and perfect for use in architecture.

Chalk

Chalk is a soft and porous sedimentary limestone rock.

It is usually a white-coloured, but not always.

It is most often used for writing and drawing.



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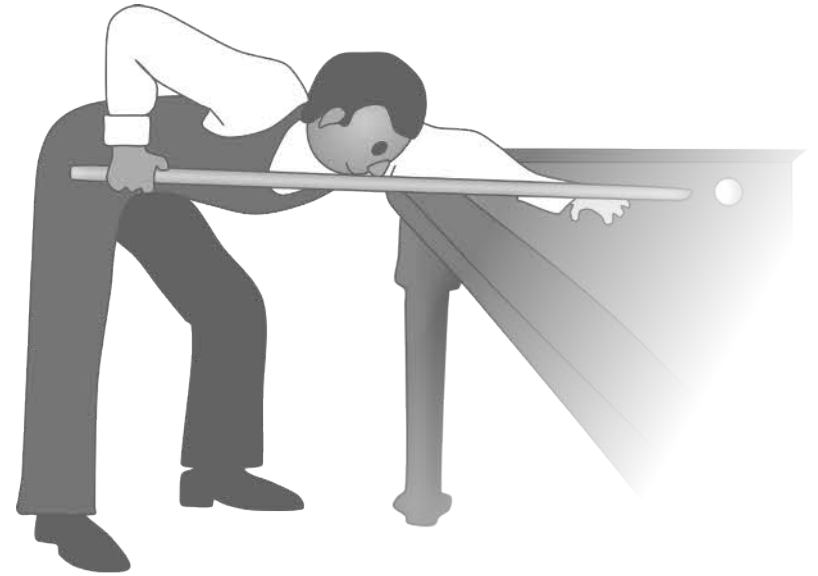


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Chalk

Other uses

Snooker players also use chalk to keep the end of their cue rough. This helps prevent mis-hitting the cue ball.



Powdered chalk was used to mark the boundary lines of grass tennis courts. A cloud of chalk dust could be seen if the ball hit a line. Nowadays titanium dioxide is used.

Even toothpaste has small amounts of chalk!



A lot of chalk is found in Europe, and especially England.

Sand

Sand is a granular material made up of separate rock and mineral particles that have accumulated over thousands of years.

Sand often forms beaches where land meets the sea.



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And is also found in desert regions, such as the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Sand

Sand is mixed together with cement, gravel and water to make concrete.

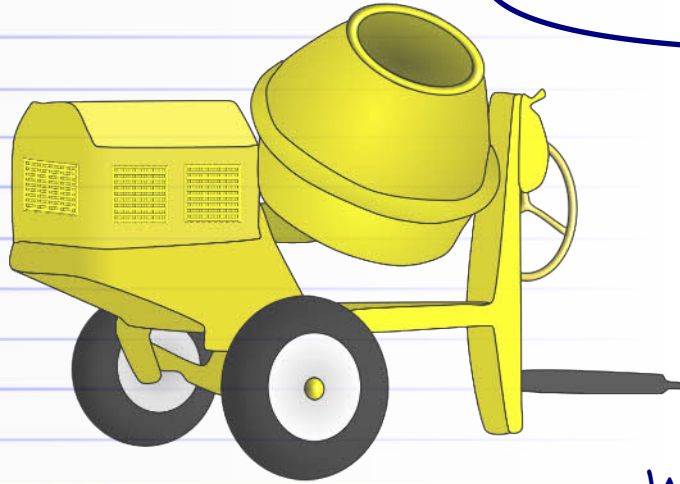


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Wet sand can also be used to make amazing sculptures.



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Clay

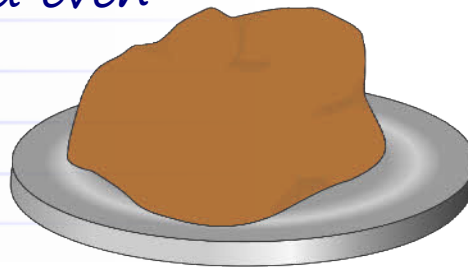
Clay is a natural material made up of fine-grained minerals. When wet it is easily mouldable, then hardens when dried.



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Clay can be used to make bricks, pots, artwork, dishware and even musical instruments!



A potter uses clay and water on a spinning plate to create pots, vases and bowls.

Types of rocks

There are three main types of rock:

Igneous

Igneous rocks are formed directly from magma produced by volcanoes.

Examples: granite, basalt, pumice



Sedimentary

These are formed when igneous rocks are eroded under the sea.

Examples: limestone, chalk, sandstone

Metamorphic

Made up of igneous and sedimentary rocks that have been compressed.

Examples: slate, marble, quartzite