

USING A KEY TO IDENTIFY ROCKS

This is a very simple key which only works for a few rocks

A

Does your sample fizz when you put a small drop of acid on it?

No. Go to section B

Yes. If it is white and powdery it is chalk

If it is grey or cream coloured it is limestone

If it is shiny in small patches like sugar it is marble

B

Does the sample contain rounded or irregular patches more than 1cm across?

No Go to section C

Yes If they are rounded patches it is a conglomerate

If they are irregular patches it is a breccia

C

Does the sample crumble when rubbed with a finger

No Go to section D

Yes It is a sandstone

D

Is the sample dark grey or black?

No Go to section F

Yes Go to section E

E

Can you scratch it with a piece of copper wire?

No It is basalt

Yes If it is a thin slice it is a slate

If it is dusty it is coal

F

Is the sample speckled black and white or black, white and pink?

Yes It is a granite