

Figure 2.10 Major ocean trenches of the world.

Table 2-2 • THE LAYERS OF THE EARTH

|             | LAYER   | COMPOSITION  | DEPTH   | PROPERTIES   |
|-------------|---|--|---|--|
| Crust       | Oceanic crust<br>Continental crust  | Basalt<br>Granite  | 5–10 km<br>20–70 km   | Cool, hard, and strong<br>Cool, hard, and strong   |
| Lithosphere | Lithosphere includes the crust and the uppermost portion of the mantle  | Varies; the crust and the mantle have different compositions       | 75–125 km   | Cool, hard, and strong   |
| Mantle      | Uppermost portion of the mantle included as part of the lithosphere<br>Asthenosphere<br>Remainder of upper mantle<br>Lower mantle | Entire mantle is ultramafic rock. Its mineralogy varies with depth | Extends to 350 km<br>Extends from 350 to 660 km<br>Extends from 660 to 2900 km  | Hot, weak, and plastic, 1% or 2% melted<br>Hot, under great pressure, and mechanically strong<br>High pressure forms minerals different from those of the upper mantle |
| Core        | Outer core<br>Inner core  | Iron and nickel<br>Iron and nickel                                 | Extends from 2900 to 5150 km<br>Extends from 5150 km to the center of the Earth | Liquid<br>Solid  |

Table 2-1 • CHARACTERISTICS AND EXAMPLES OF PLATE BOUNDARIES

| TYPE OF BOUNDARY | TYPES OF PLATES INVOLVED | TOPOGRAPHY   | GEOLOGIC EVENTS   | MODERN EXAMPLES                              |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Divergent        | Ocean-ocean              | Mid-oceanic ridge  | Sea-floor spreading, shallow earthquakes, rising magma, volcanoes           | Mid-Atlantic ridge                           |
|                  | Continent-continent      | Rift valley  | Continents torn apart, earthquakes, rising magma, volcanoes                 | East African rift                            |
| Convergent       | Ocean-ocean              | Island arcs and ocean trenches                           | Subduction, deep earthquakes, rising magma, volcanoes, deformation of rocks | Western Aleutians                            |
|                  | Ocean-continent          | Mountains and ocean trenches                             | Subduction, deep earthquakes, rising magma, volcanoes, deformation of rocks | Andes  |
|                  | Continent-continent      | Mountains  | Deep earthquakes, deformation of rocks                                      | Himalayas                                    |
| Transform        | Ocean-ocean              | Major offset of mid-oceanic ridge axis                   | Earthquakes   | Offset of East Pacific rise in South Pacific |
|                  | Continent-continent      | Small deformed mountain ranges, deformations along fault | Earthquakes, deformation of rocks   | San Andreas fault                            |

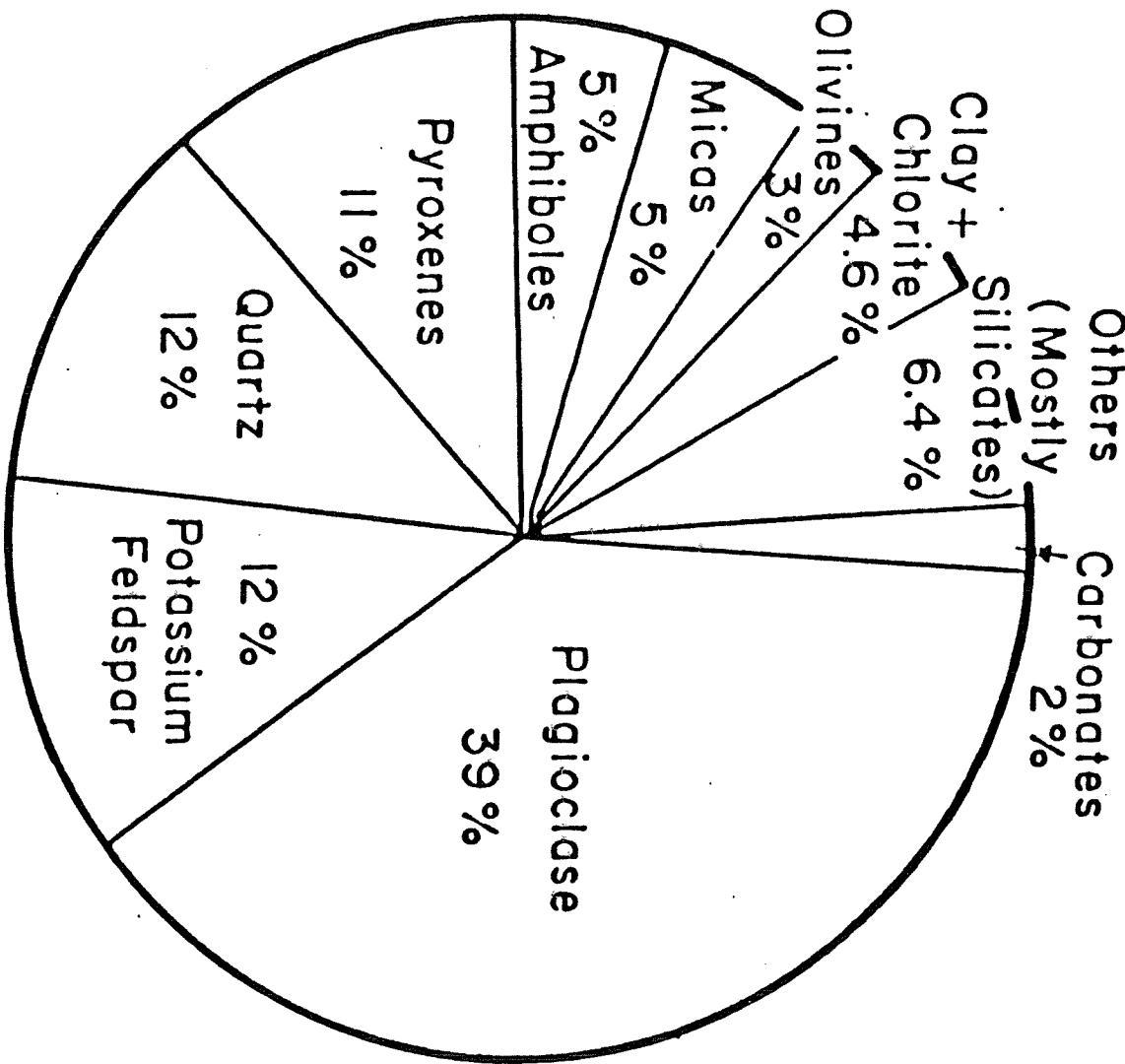
KINDS OF PLATE MARGINS AND CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES

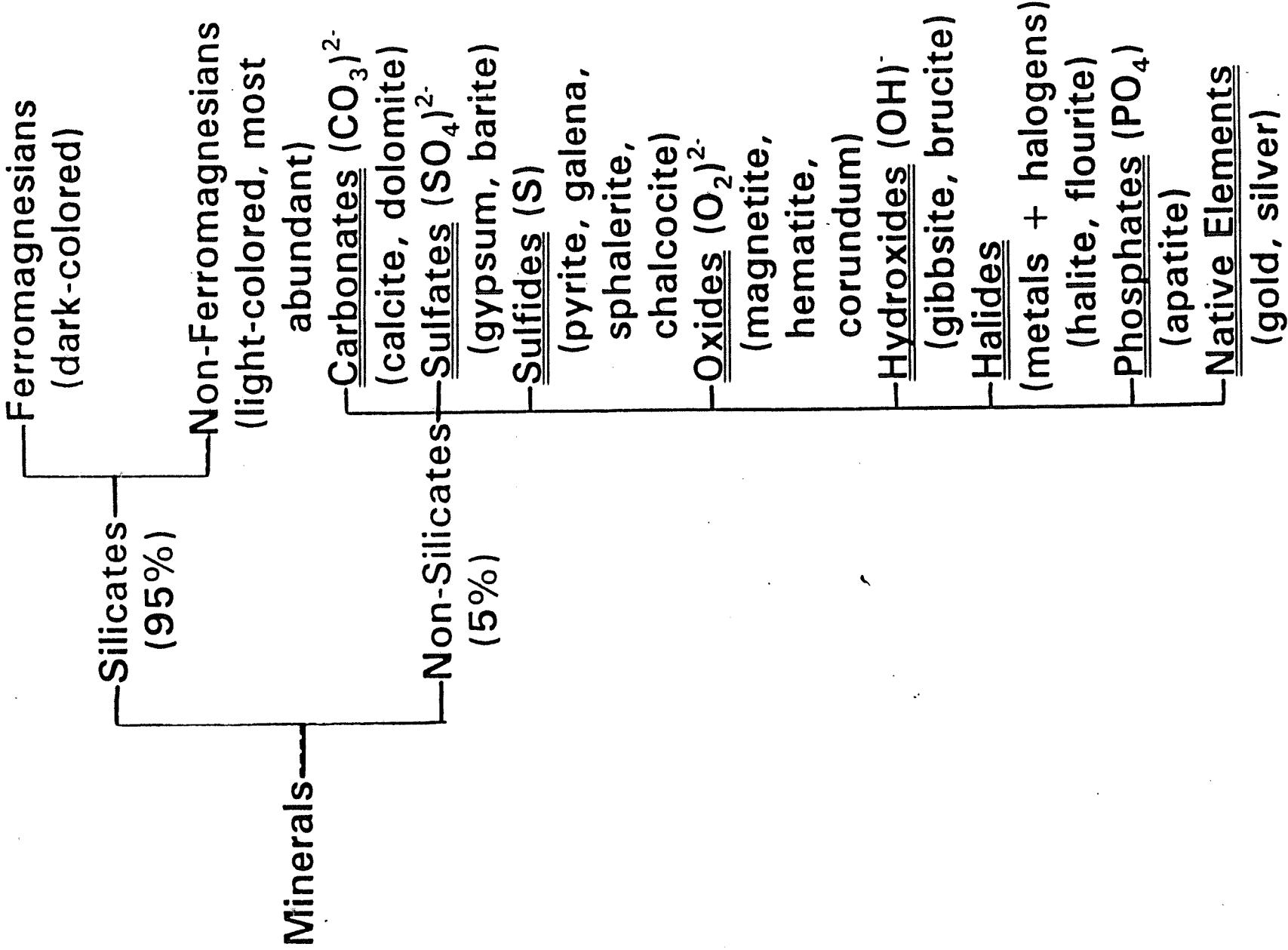
| Crust on each plate     | feature    | kinds of margin                        |   | transform Faults                                |
|-------------------------|------------|--|---|---|
|                         |            | divergent                              | convergent  |   |
| Oceanic-Oceanic         | Topography | Oceanic ridge with central rift valley | Seafloor trench   | Ridges and valleys created by oceanic crust     |
|                         | Earthquake | All foci less than 100km deep          | Foci from 0 to 700km  | Foci as deep as 100km                           |
|                         | Volcanism  | Basaltic lavas                         | Andesitic volcanoes in an arc of islands parallel to trench       | Volcanism rare, basaltic along "leaky" faults   |
|                         | Examples   | Mid-Atlantic Ridge                     | Tonga-Kermadec Trench: Aleutian Trench                            | Kane Fracture                                   |
| Oceanic-Continental     | Topography | -                                      | Seafloor trench   | -   |
|                         | Earthquake | -                                      | Foci from 0 to 700km deep   | -   |
|                         | Volcanism  | -                                      | Andesitic volcanoes in mountain range parallel to trench          | -   |
|                         | Examples   | (no examples)                          | Western Coast of South America                                    | (no examples)                                   |
| Continental-Continental | Topography | Rift valley                            | Young mountain range  | Fault zone that displaces surface features      |
|                         | Earthquake | All foci less than 100km deep          | Foci as deep as 300km over a broad region                         | Foci as deep as 100km throughout a broad region |
|                         | Volcanism  | Basaltic and rhyolitic volcanoes       | No volcanism: intense metamorphism and intrusion granitic plutons | No volcanism                                    |
|                         | Examples   | African Rift Valley                    | Himalaya, Alps  | San Andreas Fault                               |

## ABUNDANCE OF ELEMENTS IN THE EARTH'S CRUST

| Element    | Symbol | Atom Number | Per Cent by Weight | Per Cent by Volume |
|------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Oxygen     | O      | 8           | 46.6               | 93.77              |
| Silicon    | Si     | 14          | 27.72              | .86                |
| Aluminum   | Al     | 13          | 8.13               | .47                |
| Iron       | Fe     | 26          | 5.00               | .43                |
| Calcium    | Ca     | 20          | 3.63               | 1.03               |
| Sodium     | Na     | 11          | 2.83               | 1.32               |
| Potassium  | K      | 19          | 2.59               | 1.83               |
| Magnesium  | Mg     | 12          | 2.09               | .29                |
| Titanium   | Ti     | 22          | 0.62               |                    |
| Hydrogen   | H      | 1           | 0.14               |                    |
| Phosphorus | P      | 15          | 0.13               |                    |
| Carbon     | C      | 6           | 0.094              |                    |
| Manganese  | Mn     | 25          | 0.09               |                    |
| Sulfur     | S      | 16          | 0.08               |                    |
| Barium     | Ba     | 56          | 0.05               |                    |
| Chlorine   | Cl     | 17          | 0.045              |                    |
| Chromium   | Cr     | 24          | 0.035              |                    |
| Fluorine   | F      | 9           | 0.029              |                    |
| Zirconium  | Zr     | 40          | 0.025              |                    |
| Nickel     | Ni     | 28          | <u>0.019</u>       | <u>99.947</u>      |
| Others     |        |             |                    | <u>0.053</u>       |

Pie diagram showing volume percent of minerals in the crust  
of the earth (data from Ronov and Yaroshevsky, 1969)





Olivine  
 $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$

Augite

Biotite  
(black mica)

Ferromagnesians—Chlorite

Hornblende

Garnet

Silicates—

Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ )

Non

Ferromagnesians—Muscovite  
(White Mica)

Feldspar:

(most abundant)  
i. orthoclase  
(K-feldspar)

ii. plagioclase:  
Albite(sodic)  
Anorthite(Calcic)

Table 1-3  
Major silicate structures.

| Geometry of linkage<br>of SiO <sub>4</sub> tetrahedra   | Si/O<br>ratio | Example<br>mineral   | Formula   |
|---|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Isolated tetrahedra:<br>linked by bonds<br>sharing oxygens<br>only through cation   | 1:4           | Olivine              | (Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>                             |
| Single chains: each<br>tetrahedron linked<br>to two others by<br>shared oxygens.<br>Chains bonded<br>by cations                                     | 1:3           | Pyroxene             | (Mg,Fe)SiO <sub>4</sub>   |
| Double chains: 2<br>chains joined by<br>shared oxygens as<br>well as cations  | 4:1           | Amphibole            | (Ca,Mg)Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>          |
| Sheets: each tetra-<br>hedron linked to<br>3 others by<br>shared oxygens.<br>Sheets bonded by<br>cations of<br>alumina sheets                       | 2:5           | Kalinite             | Al <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>11</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub> |
| Framework: each<br>tetrahedron shares<br>all its oxygens<br>with other SiO <sub>4</sub><br>tetrahedra (in quartz)<br>or AlO <sub>4</sub> tetrahedra | 1:2           | Feldspar<br>(Albite) | NaAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                                |
|   |               | Quartz               | SiO <sub>2</sub>  |

Table 2-3 Common Rock-Forming Silicates

| Silicate              | Formula   | Silicon : Oxygen Ratio*<br>(silicate structure) | Properties  |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| Quartz                | $\text{SiO}_2$  | 1:2 (framework)                                 | Hardness of 7; breaks by fracture; six-sided prismatic crystals; specific gravity 2.65  |
| Alkali feldspars      | $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$  | 1:2 (framework)                                 | Hardness of 6.0–6.5; strong cleavage in two directions at right angles; pink or white in color; specific gravity 2.5–2.6        |
| Plagioclase feldspars | $(\text{Ca}, \text{Na})\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8$   | 1:2 (framework)                                 | Hardness of 6.0–6.5; strong cleavage in two directions at right angles; white to bluish-gray in color; specific gravity 2.6–2.7 |
| Muscovite mica        | $\text{K}_2\text{Al}_4(\text{Si}_6\text{Al}_2\text{O}_{20})(\text{OH}, \text{F})_2$                             | 1:2.5 (sheet)                                   | Hardness of 2–3; perfect cleavage in one direction; colorless and transparent to light green-gray; specific gravity 2.8–3.0     |
| Biotite mica          | $\text{K}_2(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_6\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$                                       | 1:2.5 (sheet)                                   | Hardness of 2.5–3.0; perfect cleavage in one direction; black to dark brown in color; specific gravity 2.7–3.2                  |
| Amphiboles            | $(\text{Na}, \text{Ca})_2(\text{Mg}, \text{Al}, \text{Fe})_5(\text{Si}, \text{Al})_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ | 1:2.75 (double chain)                           | Hardness of 5–6; cleaves in two directions at 56° and 124°; black to dark green in color; specific gravity 3.0–3.3              |
| Pyroxenes             | $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}, \text{Ca}, \text{Na})(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe}, \text{Al})\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$            | 1:3 (single chain)                              | Hardness of 5–6; cleaves in two directions at about 90°; black to dark green in color; specific gravity 3.1–3.5                 |
| Olivine               | $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$  | 1:4 (independent tetrahedra)                    | Hardness of 6.5–7.0; green in color; breaks by fracture; specific gravity 3.2–3.6   |

Luminous ion:  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  may substitute for some silicon ions in certain minerals. These count

as silicon ions for purposes of the silicon:oxygen ratio.

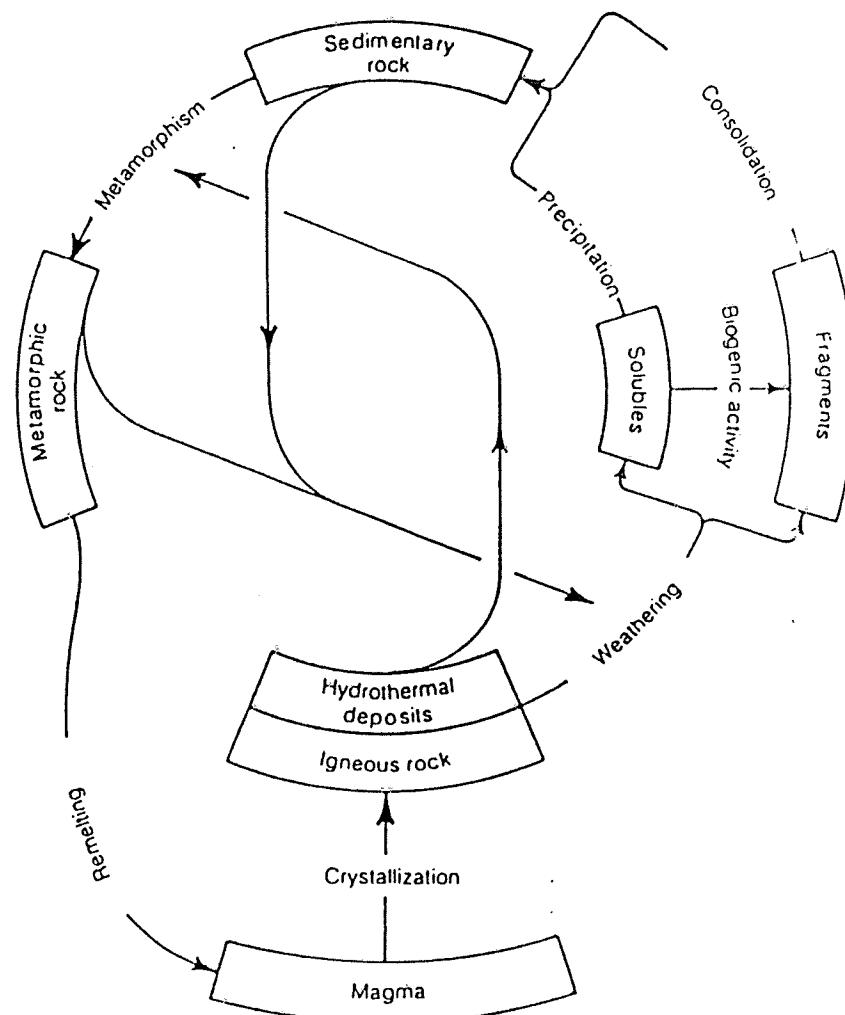
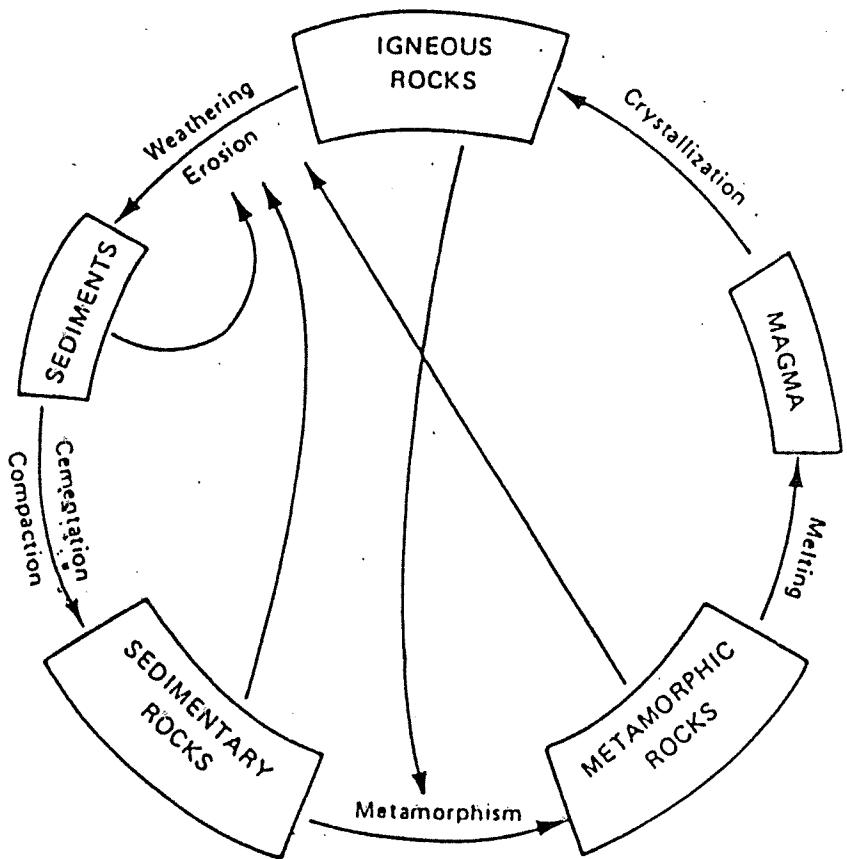
Table 2-4 Common Nonsilicate Minerals

| Mineral Type    | Composition   | Examples   | Uses  |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Carbonates      | Metallic ion(s) plus carbonate ion complex ( $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ) | Calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )<br>Dolomite ( $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ )   | Cement<br>Cement  |
| Oxides          | Metallic ion(s) plus oxygen ion ( $\text{O}^{2-}$ )               | Hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )<br>Magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ )<br>Corundum ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )<br>Cassiterite ( $\text{SnO}_2$ )<br>Rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ )<br>Ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ )<br>Uraninite ( $\text{UO}_2$ ) | Iron ore<br>Iron ore<br>Gems, abrasives<br>Tin ore<br>Titanium ore<br>Titanium ore<br>Uranium ore   |
| Sulfides        | Metallic ion(s) plus sulfur ( $\text{S}^{2-}$ )                   | Galena ( $\text{PbS}$ )<br>Pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ )<br>Cinnabar ( $\text{HgS}$ )<br>Sphalerite ( $\text{ZnS}$ )<br>Molybdenite ( $\text{MoS}_2$ )<br>Chalcopyrite ( $\text{CuFeS}_2$ )  | Lead ore<br>Sulfur ore<br>Mercury ore<br>Zinc ore<br>Molybdenum ore<br>Copper ore   |
| Sulfates        | Metallic ion(s) plus sulfate ion ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ )           | Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )<br>Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ )<br>Barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ )  | Plaster<br>Plaster<br>Drilling mud  |
| Native elements | Minerals consisting of a single element                           | Gold ( $\text{Au}$ )<br>Silver ( $\text{Ag}$ )<br>Platinum ( $\text{Pt}$ )<br>Diamond ( $\text{C}$ )   | Jewelry, coins, electronics<br>Jewelry, coins, photography<br>Jewelry, catalyst for gasoline production<br>Jewelry, drill bits, cutting tools |

**Table 3-5 • IMPORTANT MINERAL GROUPS**

| GROUP           | MEMBER  | FORMULA  | ECONOMIC USE  |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| Oxides          | Hematite<br>Magnetite<br>Corundum<br>Ice<br>Chromite                  | $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$<br>$\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$<br>$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$<br>$\text{H}_2\text{O}$<br>$\text{FeCr}_2\text{O}_4$ | Ore of iron<br>Ore of iron<br>Gemstone, abrasive<br>Solid form of water<br>Ore of chromium  |
| Sulfides        | Galena<br>Sphalerite<br>Pyrite<br>Chalcopyrite<br>Bornite<br>Cinnabar | $\text{PbS}$<br>$\text{ZnS}$<br>$\text{FeS}^2$<br>$\text{CuFeS}_2$<br>$\text{Cu}_5\text{FeS}_4$<br>$\text{HgS}$                    | Ore of lead<br>Ore of zinc<br>Fool's gold<br>Ore of copper<br>Ore of copper<br>Ore of mercury   |
| Sulfates        | Gypsum<br>Anhydrite<br>Barite   | $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$<br>$\text{CaSO}_4$<br>$\text{BaSO}_4$  | Plaster<br>Plaster<br>Drilling mud  |
| Native elements | Gold<br>Copper<br>Diamond<br>Sulfur<br>Graphite<br>Silver<br>Platinum | $\text{Au}$<br>$\text{Cu}$<br>$\text{C}$<br>$\text{S}$<br>$\text{C}$<br>$\text{Ag}$<br>$\text{Pt}$                                 | Electronics, jewelry<br>Electronics<br>Gemstone, abrasive<br>Sulfa drugs, chemicals<br>Pencil lead, dry lubricant<br>Jewelry, photography<br>Catalyst |
| Halides         | Halite<br>Fluorite<br>Sylvite   | $\text{NaCl}$<br>$\text{CaF}_2$<br>$\text{KCl}$  | Common salt<br>Used in steel making<br>Fertilizer   |
| Carbonates      | Calcite<br>Dolomite<br>Aragonite                                      | $\text{CaCO}_3$<br>$\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$<br>$\text{CaCO}_3$   | Portland cement<br>Portland cement<br>Portland cement   |
| Hydroxides      | Limonite<br>Bauxite   | $\text{FeO}(\text{OH}) \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$<br>$\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$                            | Ore of iron, pigments<br>Ore of aluminum  |
| Phosphates      | Apatite<br>Turquoise  | $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{OH})_k \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$<br>$\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_k$                 | Fertilizer<br>Gemstone  |
| Silicates       | (See Figures 3-18 and 3-19 for silicate minerals.)                    |  |   |

# The ROCK CYCLE



## Volcanic Features, and Plate Tectonic Settings

| Lava Type                            | Eruptive Style                | Typical Volcanic Landforms                               | Common Volcanic Products and Effects   | Common Plate Tectonic Setting  | North American Example(s)  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Basaltic (mafic composition)         | Quiet, effusive               | Lava plateaus, shield volcanoes, occasional cinder cones | Aa lava, pahoehoe lava, vesicular basalts, pillow lavas, columnar basalts        | Divergent plate boundaries (such as the mid-Atlantic ridge), oceanic intraplate hot spots (such as underlies Hawaii), intraplate rifts (such as the East African rift) | Columbia River lava plateau (Washington and Oregon), Beiknap Crater (Eastern Oregon), Craters of the Moon (Idaho)                              |
| Andesitic (intermediate composition) | Fairly explosive, pyroclastic | Composite cones, cinder cones                            | Relatively viscous lava, lahars, welded tuffs (from pyroclastic flows)           | Subduction zones   | Cascades (British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, northern California), Aleutians (Alaska)   |
| Rhyolitic (felsic composition)       | Very explosive, pyroclastic   | Volcanic domes, calderas                                 | Extremely viscous lava, ash-flow deposits, welded tuffs (from pyroclastic flows) | Subduction zones, especially at continental margins, intracontinental rifts, intracontinental hot spots  | Yellowstone plateau (Wyoming, Montana), Jemez Mountains (Rio Grande rift, New Mexico), Long Valley Caldera (western Sierra Nevada, California) |

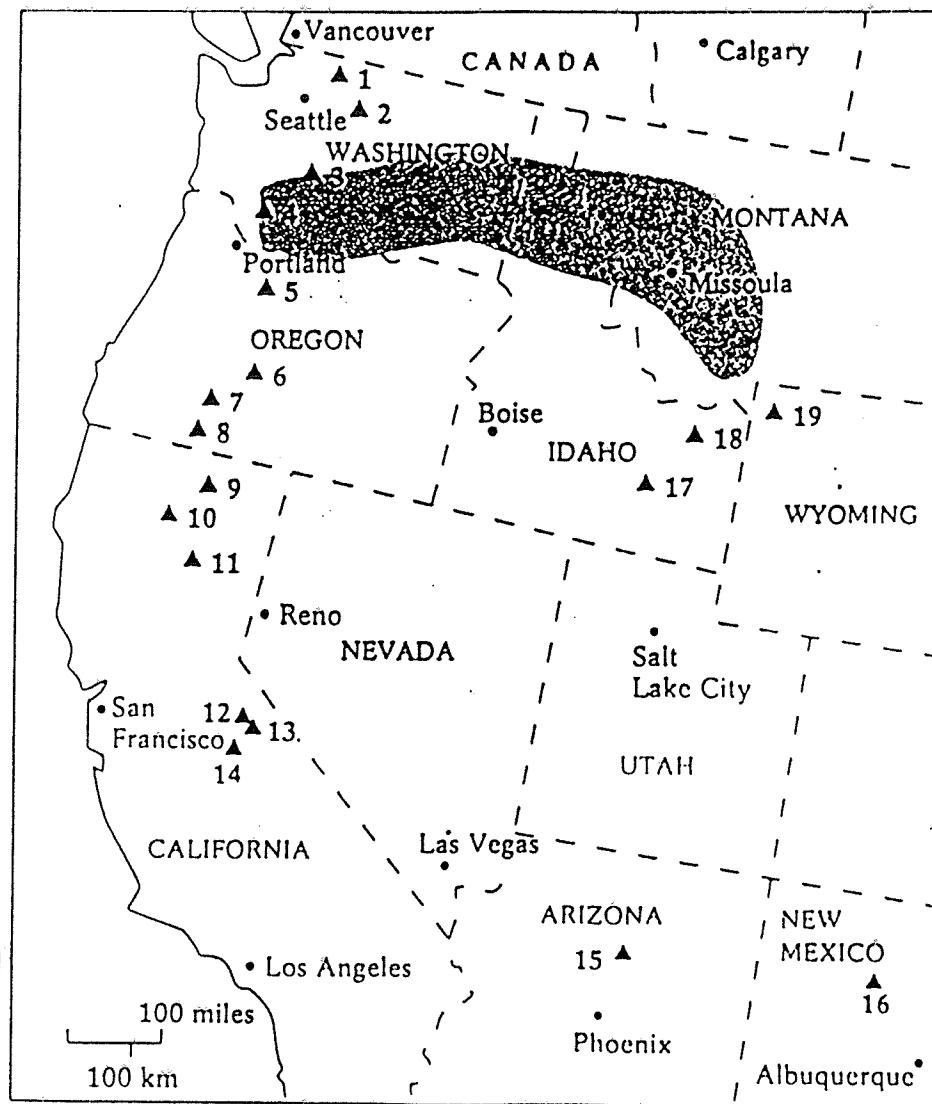
Table 3-1 Common Igneous Compositions

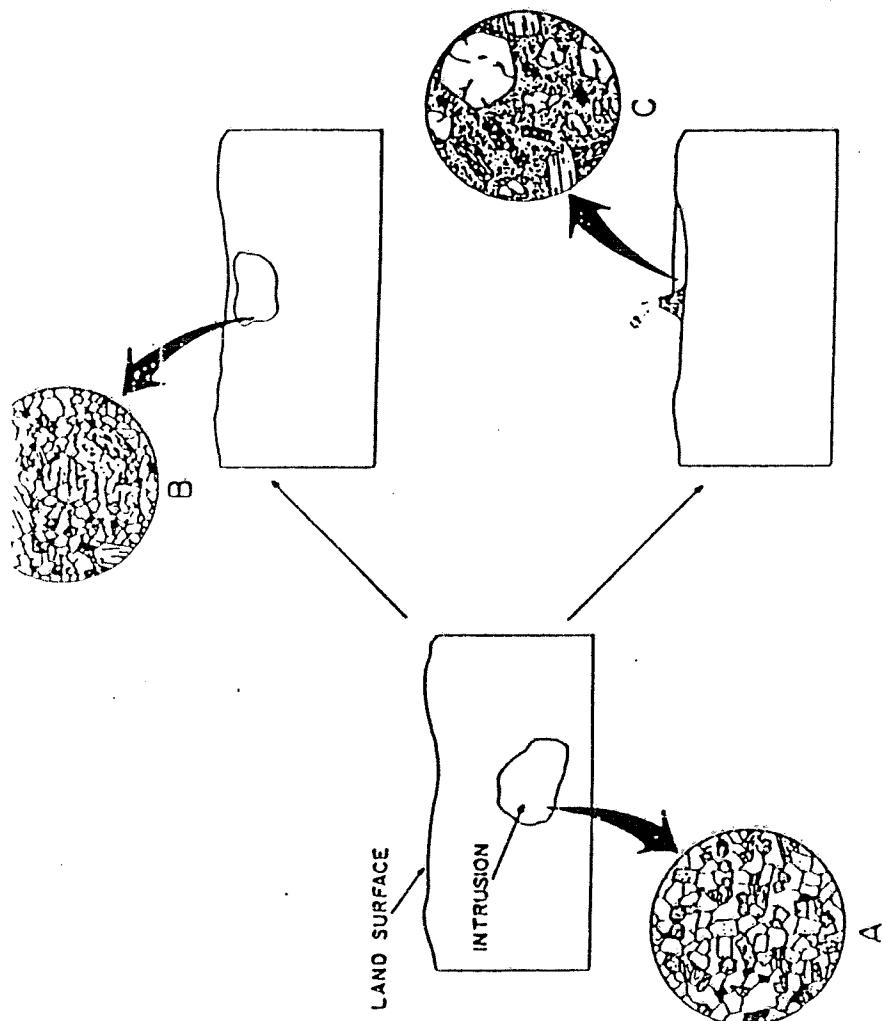
| Composition Type | Percentage of Silica | Other Major Elements | Relative Viscosity of Magma | Temperature at Which First Crystals Solidify | Igneous Rocks Produced |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Ultramafic       | <40%                 | Mg, Fe, Al, Ca       | Very low                    | >1200°C (2200°F)                             | Peridotite (plutonic)  |
| Mafic            | 40–50%               | Al, Ca, Fe, Mg       | Low                         | ~1000–1200°C (1830–2200°F)                   | Komatiite (volcanic)   |
| Intermediate     | 60%                  | Al, Ca, Na, Fe, Mg   | Medium                      | ~800–1000°C (1475–1830°F)                    | Gabbro (plutonic)      |
| Felsic           | >70%                 | Al, K, Na            | High                        | ~600–800°C (1100–1475°F)                     | Basalt (volcanic)      |
|                  |                      |                      |                             |  | Diorite (plutonic)     |
|                  |                      |                      |                             |  | Andesite (volcanic)    |
|                  |                      |                      |                             |  | Granite (plutonic)     |
|                  |                      |                      |                             |  | Rhyolite (volcanic)    |

Major Volcano (Eruption date)

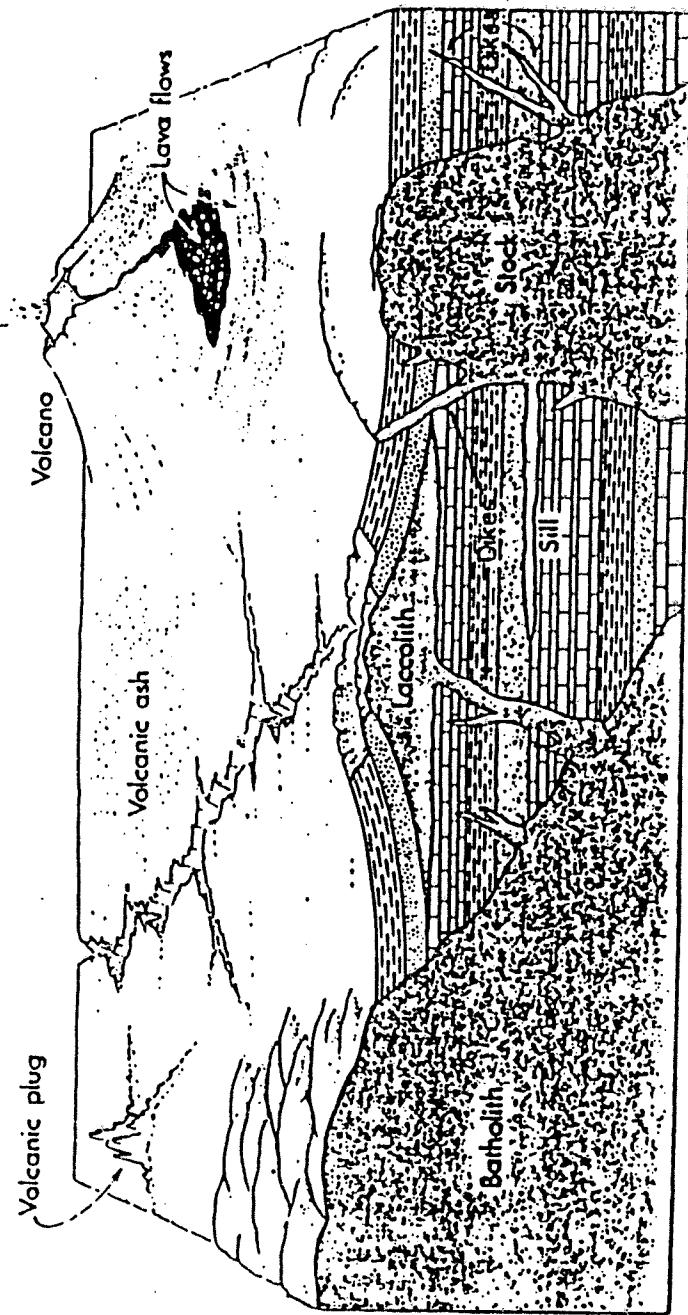
- 1 Mt. Baker (1880)
- 2 Glacier Peak (1750?)
- 3 Mt. Rainier (1854)
- 4 Mt. St. Helens (1980)
- 5 Mt. Hood (1865–1866)
- 6 Three Sisters/Newberry Caldera (1853?)
- 7 Crater Lake (Mt. Mazama) (about 6845 years ago)
- 8 Mt. McLoughlin
- 9 Medicine Lake Volcano (1910)
- 10 Mt. Shasta (1855)
- 11 Lassen Peak (1914–1917)
- 12 Mono Craters (about 200,000 years ago)
- 13 Long Valley Caldera (about 700,000 years ago)
- 14 Inyo Craters
- 15 Sunset Crater
- 16 Valles Caldera
- 17 Craters of the Moon
- 18 Island Park Caldera
- 19 Yellowstone National Park

 Extent of ash fall from Mount St. Helens' 1980 eruption  
Extent of ash fall from Mount Mazama (~6845 years ago)





Generalized cross-sections illustrating the development of igneous rock textures. Insets are enlargements of microscopic textural views; diameter of each field is approximately 2 cm. (A) Magma intrudes the earth's crust and completely crystallizes. Resultant igneous rocks have an equigranular texture. (B) If magma moves upward during crystallization it will have a complex cooling history. If magma completely crystallizes within the crust, resultant igneous rocks will contain phenocrysts of early-formed crystals in a phaneritic matrix. (C) If magma is extruded, an aphanitic groundmass will develop. Resultant igneous rocks will have large phenocrysts of early-formed crystals in an aphanitic groundmass.



Block diagram showing various modes of occurrence of igneous rocks.

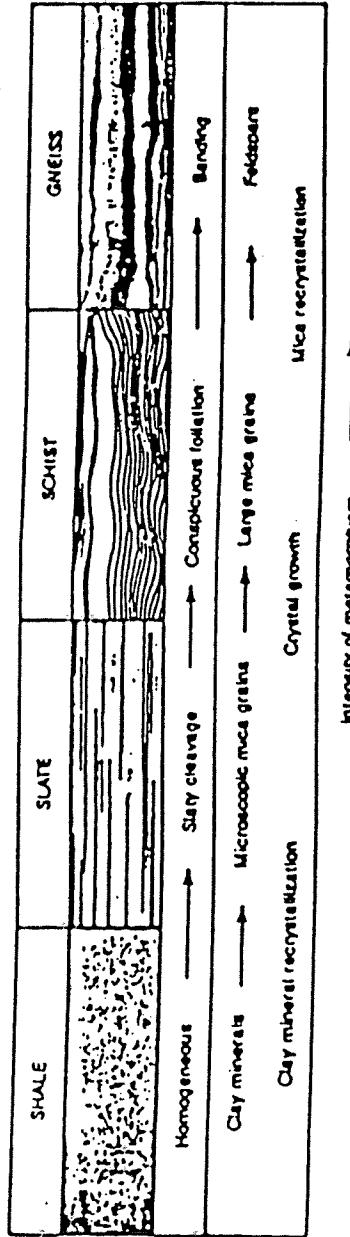
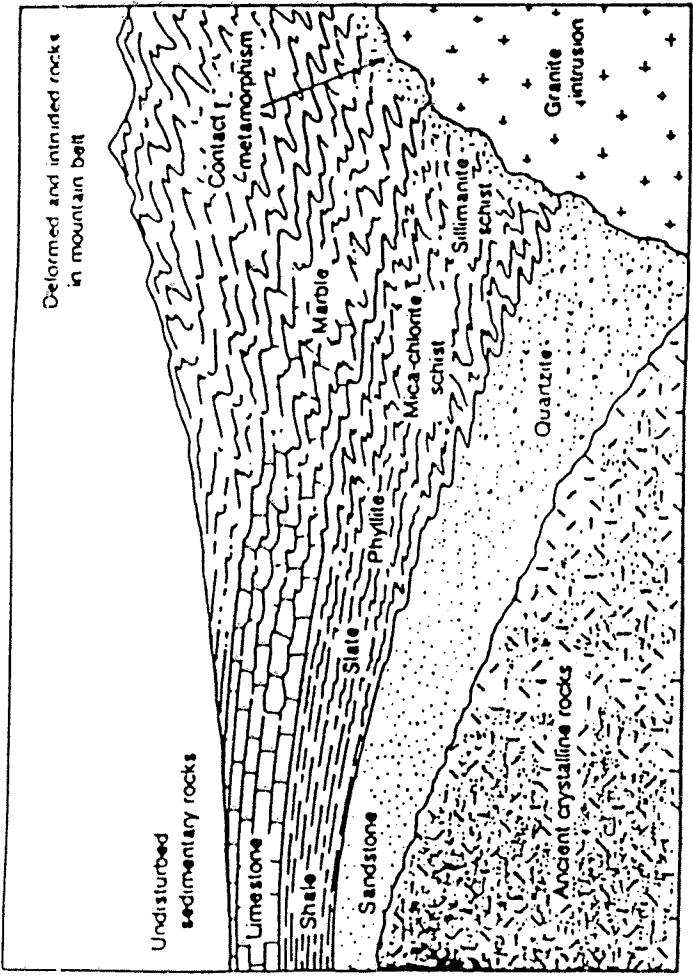


Figure 7.6 The metamorphism of shale can involve a series of steps, depending on the intensity of temperature and pressure. Shale can change to slate, schist, or even gneiss.

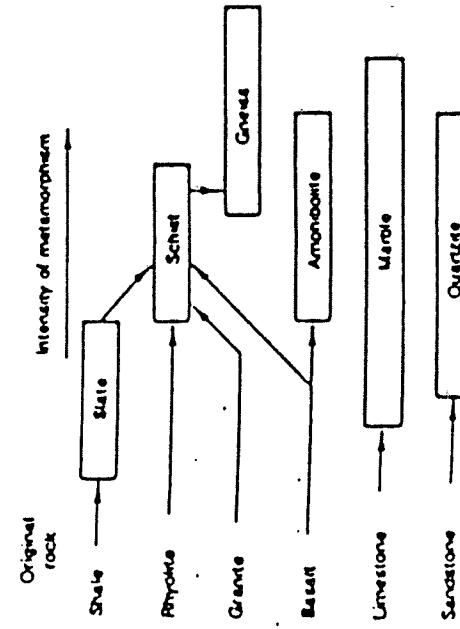


Figure 7.7 The origin of common metamorphic rocks is complex. In some cases, such as metaconglomerate, quartzite, and marble, the nature of the original rock is easily determined. In other cases, such as schist and gneiss, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to determine the type of unmetamorphosed rock. This diagram is a simplified flow chart showing the origin of some of the common metamorphic rocks.

*Classification and Identification Chart for Hand Specimens of Common Igneous Rocks.*

| ROCK COLOR ▶  | LIGHT COLORED                      | INTERMEDIATE COLORED              | DARK COLORED       |            |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CHIEF MINERAL | QUARTZ                             |                                   |                    |            |
| CONSTITUENTS  | K-FELDSPAR<br>Na-rich<br>MUSCOVITE | PLAGIOCLASE FELDSPAR<br>AMPHIBOLE | Ca-rich<br>OLIVINE |            |
| TEXTURE ▼     | BIOTITE                            |                                   | PYROXENE           |            |
| Phaneritic    | GRANITE                            | DIORITE                           | GABBRO             | PERIDOTITE |
| Aphanitic     | RHYOLITE                           | ANDESITE                          | BASALT             |            |
| Glassy        | OBSIDIAN PUMICE                    |                                   |                    |            |

**Chemical Weathering Products of Common Rock-Forming Silicate Minerals**

| Mineral   |  | Composition   | Important Decomposition Products |  |
|-----------|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
|           |  |   | Minerals                         | Other  |
| Quartz    |  | $\text{SiO}_2$  | Quartz Grains                    | Some silica in solution  |
| Feldspars | Orthoclase   | $\text{K}(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)$   | Clay                             | Some silica in solution<br>Potassium carbonate (soluble)                 |
|           | Albite (Sodium Plagioclase)<br>Anorthite (Calcium Plagioclase) | $\text{Na}(\text{AlSi}_3\text{O}_8)$<br>$\text{Ca}(\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8)$ | Clay                             | Some silica in solution<br>Sodium and calcium carbonates (soluble)       |
|           | Biotite<br>Augite<br>Hornblende                                | Fe, Mg, Ca<br>Silicates<br>of<br>Al   | Clay<br>Limonite<br>Hematite     | Some silica in solution<br>Carbonates of calcium and magnesium (soluble) |
|           | Olivine  | $(\text{Fe}, \text{Mg})_2\text{SiO}_4$  | Limonite<br>Hematite             | Some silicates in solution<br>Carbonates of iron and magnesium (soluble) |

## GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

| Time Units of the Geologic Time Scale |             |               |   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---|
| Eon                                   | Era         | Period        | Epoch   |
|                                       |             | Quaternary    | Holocene      0.01<br>Pleistocene      0.01   |
|                                       |             |               | Humans develop  |
|                                       |             | Tertiary      | Miocene      1.6<br>Oligocene      5.3<br>Eocene      23.7<br>Paleocene      38.6<br>Cretaceous      57.8 |
|                                       |             | Mesozoic      | "Age of Mammals"  |
|                                       |             | Jurassic      |   |
|                                       |             | Triassic      |   |
|                                       |             | Permian       | Extinction of dinosaurs and many other species  |
|                                       |             | Pennsylvanian | First flowering plants  |
|                                       |             | Carboniferous | First birds   |
|                                       |             | Mississippian | Dinosaurs dominant  |
|                                       |             | 360           |   |
|                                       |             | Devonian      |   |
|                                       |             | 408           | "Age of Fishes"   |
|                                       |             | Silurian      | First insect fossils  |
|                                       |             | 438           | Fishes dominant   |
|                                       |             | Ordovician    | First land plants   |
|                                       |             | 505           |   |
|                                       |             | Cambrian      | First fishes  |
|                                       |             | 570           | Trilobites dominant   |
|                                       |             |               | First organisms with shells   |
|                                       |             |               |   |
|                                       |             |               | First multicelled organisms   |
|                                       |             |               |   |
| Archean                               | Proterozoic |               | Collectively called Precambrian, comprises about 87% of the geologic time scale                           |
| 2500                                  |             |               |   |
| 3800                                  |             |               | First one-celled organisms  |
| 4600                                  |             |               | Age of oldest rocks   |
|                                       |             |               | Origin of the earth   |

*Table 18.2*  
*Major divisions of geologic time.*

|  |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <i>Cenozoic Era<br/>(Age of Recent Life)</i>   | Quaternary period    | The several geologic eras were originally named Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Quaternary. The first two names are no longer used; Tertiary and Quaternary have been retained but used as period designations. |
|  | Tertiary period      |   |
| <i>Mesozoic Era<br/>(Age of Middle Life)</i>   | Cretaceous period    | Derived from Latin word for chalk ( <i>creta</i> ) and first applied to extensive deposits that form white cliffs along the English Channel.  |
|  | Jurassic period      | Named for the Jura Mountains, located between France and Switzerland, where rocks of this age were first studied.   |
|  | Triassic period      | Taken from word "trias" in recognition of the threefold character of these rocks in Europe.   |
|  | Permian period       | Named after the province of Perm in Russia, where these rocks were first studied.   |
| <i>Paleozoic Era<br/>(Age of Ancient Life)</i> | Pennsylvanian period | Named for the state of Pennsylvania, where these rocks have yielded much coal.  |
|  | Mississippian period | Named for the Mississippi River valley, where these rocks are well exposed.   |
|  | Devonian period      | Named after Devonshire County, England, where these rocks were first studied.   |
|  | Silurian period      | Named after Celtic tribes, the Silures and the Ordovices, that lived in Wales during the Roman Conquest.  |
| <i>Precambrian</i>                             | Ordovician period    |   |
|  | Cambrian period      | Taken from the Roman name for Wales ( <i>Cambria</i> ), where rocks containing the earliest evidence of complex forms of life were first studied.   |
|  |                      | The time between the birth of the planet and the appearance of complex forms of life. More than 85 percent of the earth's estimated 4.6 billion years falls into this span.                                       |

Source: U.S. Geological Survey.