



Rocks

Pegmatite

Type:

Igneous; intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Very coarse-grained, marked by intergrowth of large (up to 1 cm) crystals. In some instances, individual crystals may grow up to several feet.

Color:

Varies; mostly light-colored (white to pink) with dark minerals.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Usually granitic in composition with quartz, feldspars and micas. Accessories include tourmaline, beryl, topaz, zircon, apatite and several rare species and may be found in unusually large amounts and in large crystals.

Occurrence/Use:

Pegmatites are often found associated with granitic and syenitic bodies as large veins or small dikes and sills. Their resulting large crystals are derived from magma rich in volatile elements. Valuable for their large, beautiful crystals and as sources for rare minerals and elements. Some well-known pegmatites are found in Maine, Colorado, South Dakota and Brazil.