



Rocks

Sandstone

Type:

Sedimentary; clastic.

Texture/Appearance:

Grains generally sand-sized ($\frac{1}{16}$ –2mm), normally sorted and somewhat rounded. May be poorly to well cemented. May also display visible fossils (not particularly common).

Color:

Variable; brown, gray, red, green, white.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Dominantly composed of quartz with less than 10% feldspar and no more than 20% clay minerals. Cement is typically siliceous, calcitic, or limonitic. Varieties can be variously described as glauconitic, argillaceous, ferruginous, or micaceous based on the relative abundance of accessory minerals. The purest sandstone, called *orthoquartzite*, is composed of quartz sand cemented by quartz.

Occurrence/Use:

Common in almost all sedimentary environments where the accumulation of sand-sized clastic matter occurs; e.g. river floodplains, deltas, sand dunes, and beaches. Typical in marine transgressive deposits where conglomerates grade upward to clays and limestones. Widespread worldwide occurrence; used frequently as a building stone.