

Non-Clastic Sedimentary Rocks

By Cindy Grigg

¹ Rocks can be put into three main groups. They are grouped by how the rocks formed. Sedimentary (sed-uh-MEN-tuh-ree) rocks are formed on or near Earth's surface. Sedimentary rocks are sorted into other groups. They can be sorted as clastic or non-clastic. This group tells something about the rocks' beginning and what they formed from.

² Non-clastic rocks are created when water evaporates or from the remains of plants and animals. Limestone is a non-clastic sedimentary rock. Limestone is made of the mineral calcite. It often contains fossils. Limestone formed in the ocean from the shells and skeletons of dead sea creatures. Some of the fossils in limestone are too small to be seen without a microscope. Chalk is a type of limestone that is usually white. It consists almost entirely of the shells of tiny dead sea creatures. Limestone is a common building material.



³ Coal is another non-clastic rock. It formed from the dead remains of plants. Millions of years ago, plants fell into swamps. They were covered with layers of sediment and did not rot. Over millions of years, as the remains were buried deeper under more and more layers of sediment, they were changed by pressure into coal. Coal is commonly used as fuel in power plants to make electricity.

⁴ Evaporite rocks formed when minerals such as gypsum and halite (rock salt) were left behind as water evaporated from oceans and lakes. Evaporite is common in desert areas, where evaporation is high, such as the Great Salt Lake in Utah. In places such as this, the high temperatures cause evaporation at the edges of lakes and shallow seas.

⁵ Travertine is a calcite-rich rock. It forms as water evaporates around hot springs. Deposits are common in Italy, Turkey, and Greece. The famous Coliseum in Rome, Italy, was constructed mainly of travertine. Many homes in America today have floor tiles made of travertine.

⁶ Non-clastic rocks are also called chemical rocks. Some form from chemical processes, such as evaporation. Some form from the organic remains of once-living plants or animals.

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<p>1. The author wrote this piece of text for the purpose of _____.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Narrating a story</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Expressing feelings</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Informing</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Entertaining</p>	<p>2. Would an evaporite rock be likely to have fossils in it?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. What is the cause of evaporite being common in desert areas?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>4. What do limestone and travertine have in common?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Both formed from dead sea creatures.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Both are made of the mineral calcite.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C All of the above</p>
<p>5. What is the main difference between limestone and coal?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Coal formed from the remains of animals. Limestone formed from the remains of plants.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Limestone is a non-clastic rock. Coal is a clastic rock.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Coal is a non-clastic rock. Limestone is a clastic rock.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Limestone formed from the remains of animals. Coal formed from the remains of plants.</p>	<p>6. Do you think evaporite rocks are considered valuable? Give details from the text to support your answer.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>