



What are the differences between metamorphic rocks commonly used as building stones?



Folded foliation in a metamorphic rock from near Geirangerfjord, Norway

Identifying building stones of metamorphic origin, from the sheets of photographs, in a graveyard or town/city centre; Explaining detailed features seen in metamorphic rocks used in buildings.

This is an activity designed by the Earthlearningidea Team. In this activity students use natural scale photographs of metamorphic rocks and are asked to:

- state the evidence which shows that the slates and the gneiss are of metamorphic origin (i.e. formed from earlier rocks by heating and/or increased pressure in the Earth) and that they are not sedimentary or igneous.
- state which of the photographs shows a rock which would react with dilute hydrochloric acid.
- state which of the rocks shown could possibly contain fossils.
- work out which of the rocks have the biggest crystals and were probably formed under the most intense heat and pressure deep within the Earth's crust

Resources available from:

https://www.earthlearningidea.com/PDF/143_Building_stones_met.pdf

*Note: Other activities from Earthlearningidea linking to this activity are:
'Will my gravestone last?'
'Metamorphism – that's Greek for change of shape, isn't it?'*