Introduction



Even though there are different sediment sizes, sedimentary rocks are classified based on how they form. Sedimentary rocks are classified into three groups; clastic, organic (non-clastic), and chemical (non-clastic). In this interactivity, click each of the symbols to explore the different types of sedimentary rocks.



Clastic



Clastic, or detrital, sedimentary rocks are composed entirely of broken pieces of rock. The rock fragments can come from igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks. Sandstone, a clastic sedimentary rock, is shown here.



Organic (Non-Clastic)



Organic sedimentary rocks are composed of the remains of plants and animals. Organic sedimentary rocks include bones, exoskeletons, twigs, and other remains of living organisms. These sedimentary rocks can reveal important information about ancient environments and provide insight to the types of plants and animals that once lived on Earth. Limestone, an organic sedimentary rock, is shown here.



Chemical (Non-Clastic)



Chemical sedimentary rocks are composed of mineral crystals that have precipitated out of solution. The most common solution on the Earth is the ocean. As ocean water evaporates, it leaves behind minerals that form chemical sedimentary rocks. Rock salt, a chemical sedimentary rock, is shown here.

