

Vocabulary



gneiss (pronounced *nice*) a metamorphic rock made from granite

Gneiss is a hard rock with light bands of quartz and feldspar and dark bands of mica and other dark minerals. The minerals in granite re-form in bands or stripes under tremendous heat and pressure.

marble a shiny, hard metamorphic rock made from limestone

For centuries, sculptors have carved marble into delicate statues. Marble is prized for sculpture because it is fine-grained and hard, and also because some pieces are pure white.

metamorphic rock rock formed when other rocks are heated and squeezed deep inside Earth's crust

Metamorphic rock can have some of the same characteristics of the rock it came from, but it is often harder. When a rock is heated and squeezed, the minerals rearrange into different patterns. The chemicals in the rock can also rearrange into different minerals.

slate a shiny, hard metamorphic rock made from shale

Slate can be broken into even, flat sheets of rock and is used for building. You may have seen it in fireplaces, patios, or on rooftops.