Rocks

Granite

Type:

Igneous, intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Massive, medium to coarse-grained; holocrystalline, sometimes porphyritic.

Color:

White, light gray, pink, or red.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Felsic; composed primarily of quartz (20-60%), K-feldspar (14-80%), plagioclase (0-53%), and mafic minerals (commonly biotite) (0-35%). May also contain abundant amounts of rare accessory minerals.

Occurrence/Use:

Found widely distributed in orogenic belts of continental crust, ranging from small intrusions to enormous batholiths. Generally, granites have their origins in melted alumino-silicate rich rocks. They are most widespread surface rocks on the Earth's continents, with major occurrences in the Precambrian shields of Europe, Canada, Brazil, and Africa, and in a variety of outcrops in the western U.S., the Appalachians, and New England. Used extensively as a building stone.