ROCK IDENTIFY / FIELD CHECKLIST

How to Identify Rocks

Work with one specimen. Start with a dry surface and angled daylight.

Specimen _____ Date _____

- [ ] **Compare two faces**
  Look at the weathered outside and an existing break or chip.

- [ ] **Check the grain**
  Look for interlocking crystals, cemented fragments or a fine groundmass.

- [ ] **Read the larger structure**
  Note flat layers, aligned mineral bands, cavities or shell fragments.

- [ ] **Describe the surface**
  Record dull, glassy or metallic luster. Check a thin edge in diffuse light.

- [ ] **Photograph the evidence**
  Take one full view with scale and close-ups of the most useful clues.

- [ ] **Keep plausible candidates**
  Write the likely rock group and the observation that could separate two names.

Candidate and next observation

Keep polished, valuable or unfamiliar specimens intact.

rockidentify.net/guides/how-to-identify-rocks