

# Rocks and Fossils

## Sorting rocks and minerals

**Some features that geologists use to sort rocks include:**

- ▣ colour
- ▣ crystal size
- ▣ whether made of small or large particles, or a mixture (e.g. 'compound')
- ▣ whether grains in layers or not
- ▣ whether laminated
- ▣ hardness
- ▣ remains of animals
- ▣ shiny/flat surfaces.

**Minerals are substances that were never living (i.e. non-organic). Rocks are a mixture of different 'minerals'.**

- ▣ No two minerals are the same.
- ▣ Many have a particular colour or shape helping to identify them.
- ▣ Some form large crystals, others form bubbly masses.
- ▣ Some grow as crusts on rocks.
- ▣ To make up rocks, some minerals are 'glued' together (and can be easily scratched) while in other rocks, minerals are 'interlocked' (need chemical or heat to separate mixtures).