



Rock properties

Background knowledge

Materials are chosen for use on the basis of their properties. Rocks vary in their properties and are used in a variety of ways, such as in the making of buildings, bridges, statues, roofs, monuments, gravestones, and ornaments.

Science activity

This chart lists some rocks and their properties.

Rock	Properties
limestone	fairly dense; relatively easy to cut; can be shaped into blocks; some forms are white in color
slate	black in color; not permeable; formed in layers that can be split up easily
granite	dense; can be cut, carved, and shaped; is resistant to water and pollution; has a range of colors
marble	dense; good range of colors; can be carved and shaped; strong
soapstone	attractive green colors; can be cut and shaped

Draw a line linking each rock listed below to one or more of the uses on the right. Use the properties of the rocks given above to help you.



limestone
soapstone
granite
marble
slate

roofing material
statue
pillars to support a bridge
monument designed to last
chess set

Science Investigation

Chalk is a type of rock. Obtain a piece of chalk and describe all of its properties. How do chalk's properties explain its main use?

