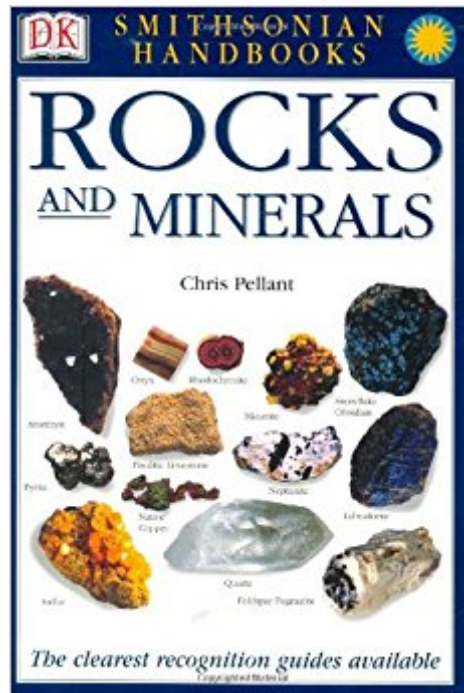


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Smithsonian Handbooks: Rocks & Minerals (Smithsonian Handbooks)



Synopsis

Smithsonian Handbooks: Rocks and Minerals is a visual recognition guide to more than 500 rocks and minerals, designed to make identification as simple and accurate as possible, with annotated photographs to pick out key distinguishing features. This book is one of a series covering plants, animals, and other natural phenomena from around the world and is published in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

Book Information

Series: Smithsonian Handbooks

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (434 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

When I took Geology in college, I loved the course. I only had one problem. It was very difficult for me to identify rocks and minerals in the field. If I had had this pocket field guide, the course would have been a snap. Now, I enjoy taking my children to study outcroppings, and this book will be a great addition to our investigations. First, the photographs are stunning. In fact, any temptation I might have had to develop my own samples is set aside by having these wonderful images to use. Second, the information is detailed and thorough. There is a lot about the crystalline structure of each mineral, the hardness, and many tests that are specific to that particular mineral. There is a very good section that describes how to apply the hardness tests (I always had trouble memorizing that area for some reason). There is plenty of good safety information for how to use the various acids that can be employed to identify minerals. Everything is nicely summarized so it is easy to find. Third, all those subtle distinctions about various kinds of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks that used to puzzle me are very clear here. Whew! Fourth, the book has great

directions for locating good spots to examine rocks. Fifth, you also receive a wonderful description of the equipment you need, and ways to use it safely. Whether you think you like rocks or not, you should give this book a try. It will open up a very interesting world full of ways to locate and identify interesting rocks and understand the stories they can tell. As a result, you will have immensely more understanding of the world around you. I also suggest that you read up on plate mechanics as well, so that you understand more about how the landscape is formed before erosion takes over.

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