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geological
ROCK-COLOR CHART
with genuine Munsell® color chips

Produced by **Munsell** Color

 x-rite

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2009 Year Revised | 2009 Production

Date put into use _____

This publication is a revision of the previously published Geological Society of America (GSA) Rock-Color Chart prepared by the Rock-Color Chart Committee (representing the U.S. Geological Survey, GSA, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Economic Geologists, and the Association of American State Geologists). Colors within this chart are the same as those used in previous GSA editions, and the chart was produced in cooperation with GSA.

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The Rock-Color Chart

The pages within this book are cleanable and can be exposed to the standard environmental conditions that are met in the field. This does not mean that the book will be able to withstand all of the environmental conditions that it is exposed to in the field.

For the cleaning of the colored pages, please make sure not to use a cleaning agent or materials that are coarse in nature. These materials could either damage the surface of the color chips or cause the color chips to start to delaminate from the pages.

With the specifying of the rock color it is important to remember to replace the rock color chart book on a regular basis so that the colors being specified are consistent from one individual to another. We recommend that you mark the date when you started to use the the book. There is a space provided on the previous page.

It is recommend that you replace the book after two years of use. This time frame is suggested based upon typical usage patterns and conditions.

Purpose

This chart is designed primarily for field use, although it indicates the range of rock colors for *all* purposes. Names for colors other than those shown on the chart can be found in *The Universal Color Language and Color Names Dictionary* (publication PB 265-225, available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Services {NTIS}, Springfield, VA 22161).

Using the chart

The chart is chiefly of value in describing the colors of medium-to fine-grained rocks but is also helpful in working with coarse-grained rocks. In describing very coarse-grained rocks, such as porphyritic granites, it is necessary to give the color of each mineral. The chart is designed to cover the range of the chief rock-forming minerals such as feldspar, quartz, mica, and hornblende. If the rock is not too coarse grained, a blending of the individual colors can be secured by spinning the specimen like a color disc or by looking at the rock from a short distance and thus getting a monotone that can be matched with the chips on the chart. The number and range of colors on the Rock-Color Chart are based on studies of more than 1,300 selected rock specimens collected from the United States. The colors of these rocks were plotted on the Munsell charts, which served as a basis for selecting the colors to be included. It is believed that the full range of rocks is covered by the chart, except possibly for very rare rocks of high *chroma*. A neutral mask is included with the chart for isolating individual colors.

Wet vs. Dry

For most rock colors, the chart will serve for both wet and dry specimens. It will usually be found that wetting a rock specimen merely decreases the *value*, that is, makes the specimen darker, but does not change the *chroma*. Accordingly, the Rock-Color Chart includes colors as far as possible into the dark range in order to cover wet specimens as well as dry. For the first time, the chart includes glossy chips for some of the dark colors. This was necessary to retain color accuracy within the system of notation used in the chart.

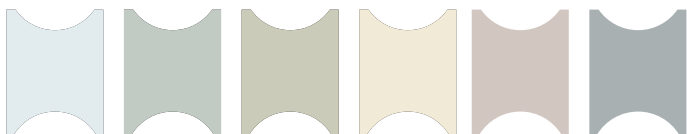
| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5R 8/2 Grayish Pink | 5R 7/4 Moderate Pink | 5R 6/2 Pale Red | 5R 6/6 Light Red | 5R 5/4 Moderate Red | 5R 4/2 Grayish Red |
| 5R 4/6 Moderate Red | 5R 3/4 Dusky Red | 5R 2/2 Blackish Red | 5R 2/6 Very Dark Red | 10R 8/2 Grayish Orange Pink | 10R 7/4 Moderate OrangePink |
| 10R 6/2 Pale Red | 10R 6/6 Moderate Reddish Orange | 10R 5/4 Pale Reddish Brown | 10R 4/2 Grayish Red | 10R 4/6 Moderate Reddish Brown | 10R 3/4 Dark Reddish Brown |
| 10R 2/2 Very Dusky Red | 5Y 8/4 Moderate Orange Pink | 5YR 7/2 Grayish Orange Pink | 5YR 6/4 Light Brown | 5YR 5/2 Pale Brown | 5YR 5/6 Light Brown |
| 5YR 4/4 Moderate Brown | 5Y 3/2 Grayish Brown | 5YR 3/4 Moderate Brown | 5YR 2/2 Dusky Brown | 10YR 8/2 Very Pale Orange | 10YR 8/6 Pale Yellowish Orange |
| 10YR 7/4 Grayish Orange | 10YR 6/2 Pale Yellowish Brown | 10YR 6/6 Dark Yellowish Orange | 10YR 5/4 Moderate Yellowish Brown | 10YR 4/2 Dark Yellowish Brown | 10YR 2/2 Dusky Yellowish Brown |
| 5Y 8/4 Grayish Yellow | 5Y 7/2 Yellowish Gray | 5Y 7/6 Moderate Yellow | 5Y 6/4 Dusky Yellow | 5Y 5/2 Light Olive Gray | 5Y 5/6 Light Olive Brown |



| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>5Y 4/4 Moderate Olive Brown</p> | <p>5Y 3/2 Olive Gray</p> | <p>10Y 8/2 Pale Greenish Yellow</p> | <p>10Y 7/4 Moderate Greenish Yellow</p> | <p>10Y 6/2 Pale Olive</p> | <p>10Y 6/6 Dark Greenish Yellow</p> |
| <p>10Y 5/4 Light Olive</p> | <p>10Y 4/2 Grayish Olive</p> | <p>5GY 7/2 Grayish Yellow Green</p> | <p>5GY 7/4 Moderate Yellow Green</p> | <p>5GY 5/2 Dusky Yellow Green</p> | <p>5GY 3/2 Grayish Olive Green</p> |
| <p>10GY 7/2 Pale Yellowish Green</p> | <p>10GY 6/4 Moderate Yellowish Green</p> | <p>10GY 5/2 Grayish Green</p> | <p>10GY 4/4 Dark Yellowish Green</p> | <p>10GY 3/2 Dusky Yellowish Green</p> | |
| <p>5G 7/2 Pale Green</p> | <p>5G 7/4 Light Green</p> | <p>5G 6/6 Brilliant Green</p> | <p>5G 5/2 Moderate Yellow Green</p> | <p>5G 5/6 Moderate Green</p> | <p>5G 3/2 Dusky Green</p> |
| <p>10G 8/2 Very Pale Green</p> | <p>10G 6/2 Pale Green</p> | <p>10G 4/2 Grayish Green</p> | <p>5BG 7/2 Pale Blue Green</p> | <p>5BG 6/6 Light Blue Green</p> | <p>5BG 5/2 Grayish Blue Green</p> |
| <p>5BG 4/6 Moderate Blue Green</p> | <p>5BG 3/2 Dusky Blue Green</p> | <p>5B 8/2 Very Pale Blue</p> | <p>5B 7/6 Light Blue</p> | <p>5B 6/2 Pale Blue</p> | <p>5B 5/6 Moderate Blue</p> |
| <p>5PB 7/2 Pale Blue</p> | <p>5PB 5/2 Grayish Blue</p> | <p>5PB 3/2 Dusky Blue</p> | <p>5P 6/2 Pale Purple</p> | <p>5P 4/2 Grayish Purple</p> | <p>5P 2/2 Very Dusky Purple</p> |



| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 5RP 8/2 Pale Pink | 5RP 6/2 Pale Red Purple | 5RP 4/2 Grayish Red Purple | 5RP 2/2 Very Dusky Purple | | |
| 5B 9/1 Bluish White | 5G 8/1 Light Greenish Gray | 5GY 8/1 Light Greenish Gray | 5Y 8/1 Yellowish Gray | 5YR 8/1 Pinkish Gray | 5B 7/1 Light Bluish Gray |
| 5YR 6/1 Light Brownish Gray | 5Y 6/1 Light Olive Gray | 5G 6/1 Greenish Gray | 5GY 6/1 Greenish Gray | 5B 5/1 Medium Bluish Gray | 5G 4/1 Dark Greenish Gray |
| 5GY 4/1 Dark Greenish Gray | 5Y 4/1 Olive Gray | 5YR 4/1 Brownish Gray | 5G 2/1 Greenish Black | 5GY 2/1 Greenish Black | 5Y 2/1 Olive Black |
| 5YR 2/1 Brownish Black | | | | | |
| N9 White | N8 Very Light Gray | N7 Light Gray | N6 Medium Light Gray | N5 Medium Gray | N4 Medium Dark Gray |
| N3 Dark Gray | N2 Grayish Black | N1 Black | | | |



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