**Sedimentary rocks** are rocks composed of sediments
that are cemented together. They are classified by the
type of sediment.

There are three basic types of sediment:

* **Weathered Rock Sediments**Sedimentary rocks formed from weathered rock
are known as **clastic sedimentary rocks**. They contain:
Fossils - The preserved remains of organisms
 that were once living.

Natural cements - Chemicals that can flow around
 the sediments and then set like cement.
 E.g. calcium carbonate (calcite), silica, quartz, iron oxide and clay minerals

* **Chemical Sediments**Chemical sedimentary rocks form when materials dissolved in water come out of solution, form a rock. The process is crystallisation, in which the dissolved minerals turn into solid crystals as the water evaporates.
* **Organic Sediments**Organic sedimentary rocks form when dead plant or animal matter accumulates and is cemented together.

**Characteristics of Sedimentary Rocks**

There are three different types of sedimentary rocks. Their characteristics depend on how they are formed.

* **Clastic**- They form layers as sediments build up- The grains are cemented together
- They may contain fossils
- They are classified according to grain size
 and chemical composition of the cement.
* **Chemical**- Most chemical sedimentary rocks have crystals
- Are quite soft compared with igneous rocks
- Generally do not show layering
- Occasionally contain fossils
* **Organic**- Can be layered depending on how the fossils
 and sediments are deposited- They are usually soft although a few such asChert (also called flint) can be fairly hard

**Uses of Sedimentary Rocks**

Sedimentary rocks are widely used for building, paving
road base, foundations and wall construction. In industry, sedimentary rock is used in many ways:

* Limestone - making cement, glass and steel
* Sandstone - making glass
* Gypsum - making plaster
* Rock Phosphate - making phosphate fertiliser
* Coal - used for energy supply
* Used as a source of minerals:
Haematite - source of iron
Bauxite - source of aluminium