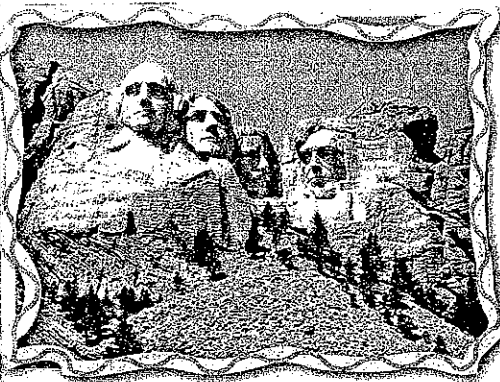


INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

R O C K S



Rocks are all around us. Sometimes they are useful, sometimes they get in the way. But what are rocks?

Rocks are clumps¹ of minerals and other solid material. Weathering² breaks down rocks into smaller pieces. Much of the soil that we find in fields and gardens is tiny bits of rock. Some kinds of rocks include once living matter, such as fossilized plants or animals.

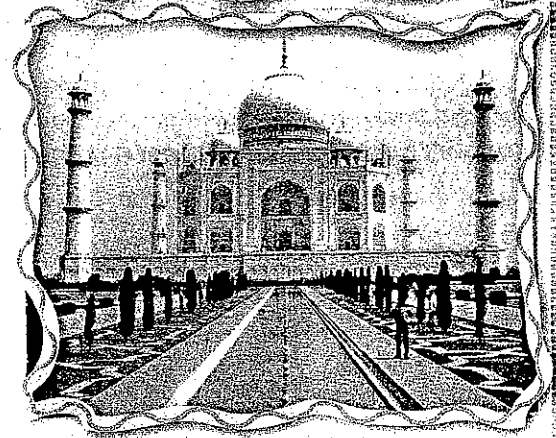
Geologists tell us that there are three types of rocks:
igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic³

Granite is an igneous rock. At Mount Rushmore in South Dakota in the USA a granite cliff⁴ has been carved to show the heads of American presidents. The eighteen meter sculptures of the presidents are, from left to right, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

Sandstone⁵ is a sedimentary rock. It is made of compressed sand particles. It was a very popular rock with builders, although over the centuries it does suffer from erosion. Ancient Egyptians carved the Great Sphinx from sandstone over 4000 years ago.

Marble⁶ is a metamorphic rock. It began as limestone, a sedimentary rock but was heated and squeezed⁷ and changed. The Taj Mahal in India is made from marble. It was built as a tomb for the wife of an Indian prince.

The world's largest monolith is Ayers Rock in Australia. The Aborigines call Ayers rock ULURU. To them, it is a very sacred place. Many paintings and carvings, some of which are very old indeed, cover the walls of the caves inside it. It is considered once of the great wonders of the world.



Depending on the time of day and the atmospheric conditions, the rock can dramatically change color, anything from blue to glowing red!

Can you think of any other places made of rocks?

1 klamps - zhluky/shluky; 2 weďarň - poveternostné podmienky/poveternostní podmínky; 3 ignies, sedi'mentãri, mete'morfik - magmatické(vyvetě), usadené/usazené(napla-vené), metamorfované; 4 klif - útes, zřáz/sráz; 5 sandstøun - pieskovec/pískovec; 6 ma:bl - mramor; 7 skwi:zd - stlačenie, usadenie-podložia/stlačení, usazení podloží

