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## Description of Nebraska's Common Rocks

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## DESCRIPTION OF NEBRASKA'S COMMON ROCKS

RAYMOND R. BURCHETT

1. Loess—buff-colored, wind-deposited silt that covers older rocks throughout the State
2. Dune Sand—fine-grained sand consisting mostly of quartz grains; found in the Sand Hills of west-central Nebraska
3. Coal—black to brown sedimentary rock composed of compacted plant remains; found in eastern Nebraska
4. Limestone—white to gray sedimentary rock composed primarily of the mineral calcite (calcium carbonate  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ); found mostly in eastern Nebraska
5. Limestone (fossiliferous)—white to gray sedimentary rock composed primarily of the mineral calcite (calcium carbonate  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) and containing fragments of animal shells; found mostly in eastern Nebraska
6. Shale—gray, green, blue, red, yellow, or black sedimentary rock resulting from the compaction of clay or silt; found at scattered locations across the State
7. Sandstone—sedimentary rock composed mainly of quartz and cemented with silica, calcium carbonate or iron oxide; found in eastern, north-central and western Nebraska
8. Sand and gravel—a mixture of a variety of rock fragments and minerals that were transported by water, wind and ice
9. Volcanic ash—white to gray, very fine particles or shards of silica-rich glass; deposited by wind and water in many localities scattered across the State
10. Ogallala “Quartzite”—grayish green rock composed mainly of quartz and feldspar grains cemented by silica; found in north-central and south-central Nebraska
11. Flint—a dark-colored variety of quartz; found in glacial drift and nodules in limestones and shales of eastern Nebraska
12. Ironstone—iron carbonate, weathers dark brown; found in glacial drift and in concretions within the Dakota Sandstone of eastern Nebraska
13. Pyrite—a brass-colored metallic mineral commonly called “fool’s gold”; found scattered throughout the State
14. Selenite (gypsum)—a variety of gypsum that forms clear crystals; found scattered throughout the State
15. Basalt—dark fine-grained igneous volcanic rock transported into and deposited throughout the State by water and glaciers
16. Granite—light-colored igneous volcanic rock consisting chiefly of quartz and feldspar transported into and deposited throughout the State by water and glaciers
17. Jasper—a variety of dense quartz in colors such as red, brown, yellow, and blue; found throughout the State
18. Sioux Quartzite—a pink, purple or red tightly cemented rock composed mainly of quartz and feldspar; transported into eastern Nebraska by glaciers
19. Prairie Agate (State Rock)—a banded variety of quartz; found mostly in western Nebraska
20. Blue Agate (State Gem)—variety of quartz called chalcedony; found across the State but mostly in western Nebraska