

Most of our planet is made of rock. Rock is made up of a mixture of minerals that are pressed tightly together. A mineral is an inorganic material (meaning it is not alive) that is often made of crystals. Sometimes when you look closely at a rock you can see the separate minerals within the rock.

There are lots of different types of rocks which can be used for lots of different purposes. Lots of naturally occurring rocks can be used as they are, once they have been shaped. Other materials that look like rocks (such as bricks or concrete slabs) are actually man-made.



All the rocks and stones used in these pictures use rock that occur naturally but that have been shaped for other purposes.



Although these materials might look like natural rocks, they are not. Concrete, bricks, tarmac and modern roof tiles are all man-made materials.



MARBLE is used by artists for creating sculptures. It is also used in construction because it is hard-wearing.





SLATE is often used for roofs because it is easy to split into thin sheets. In the past it was used for blackboards and writing slates.





CHALK is used for writing on blackboards as well as other things. Tailors use chalk when they are marking material for clothes. Gymnasts sometimes use chalk on their hands to stop them from being sweaty.



LIMESTONE is used a lot in architecture to make buildings. The Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt is made of limestone. It is also ground up as the basis for making roads.





Cement Block



Marble Statue



Brick



Gravel



Stone Bridge



Cobbled Path



Brick Path



Chalk



Limestone Building



Slate Roof



Tarmac



Stone Steps

Sort into natural and man-made

All these rocks are one colour



All these rocks are more than one colour



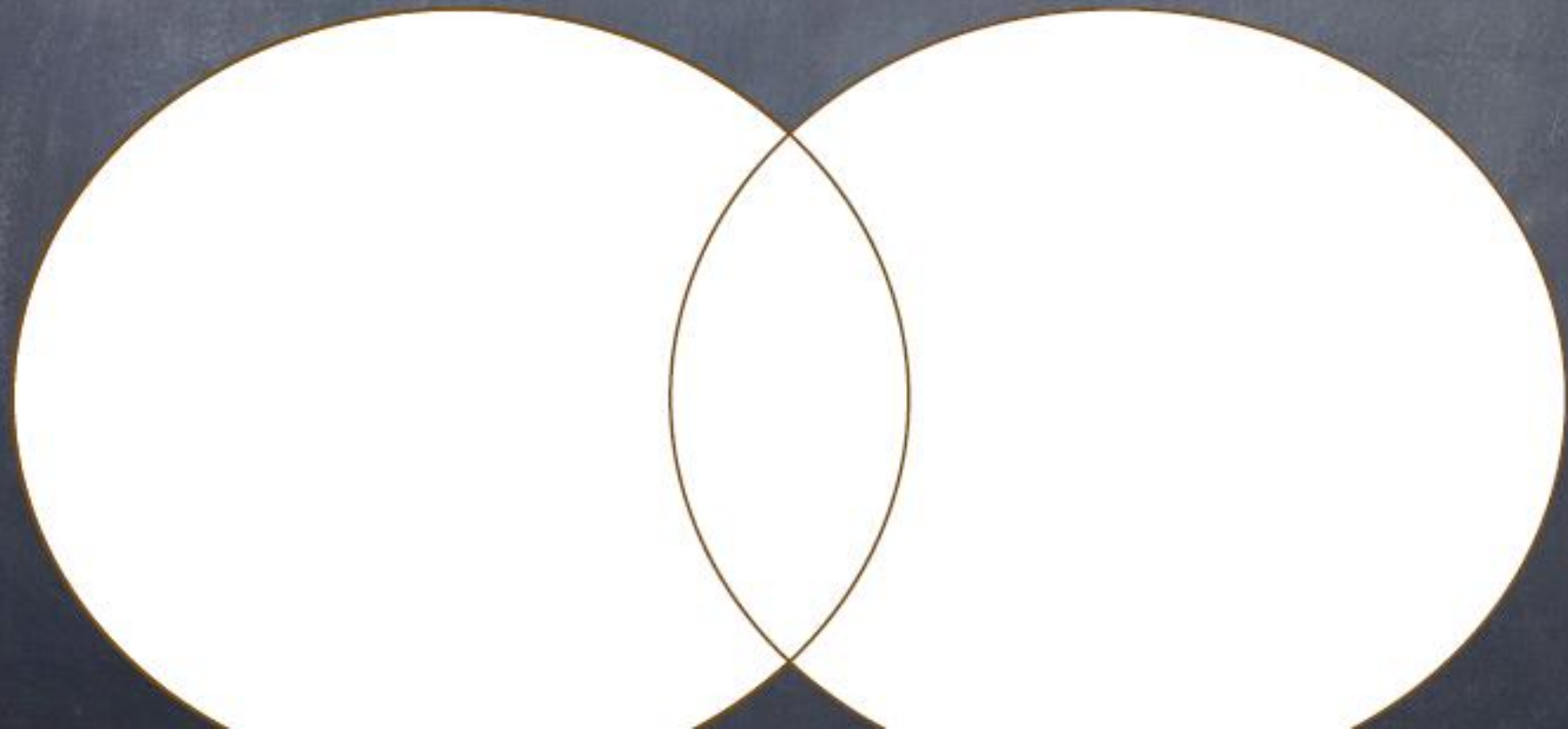
These rocks all have sharp edges



These rocks all have smooth edges



When you are sorting rocks according to their characteristics, there are lots of charts you can use to help you organise the rocks. This is a Venn diagram. The space in the middle of the two circles is for a rock that can fit into both categories.



	Pale Rocks	Dark Rocks
Smooth Rocks		
Rough Rocks		



Sort these rocks in any way
Label each group

(you could use Venn or Carroll diagrams)

