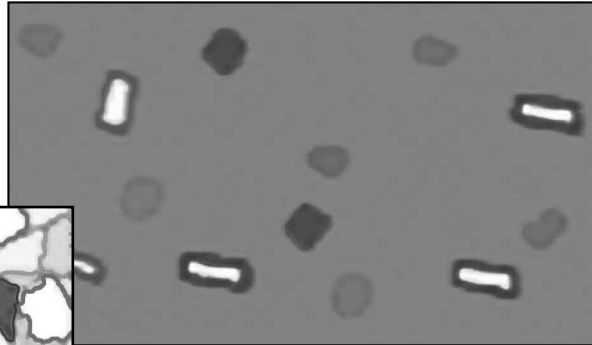
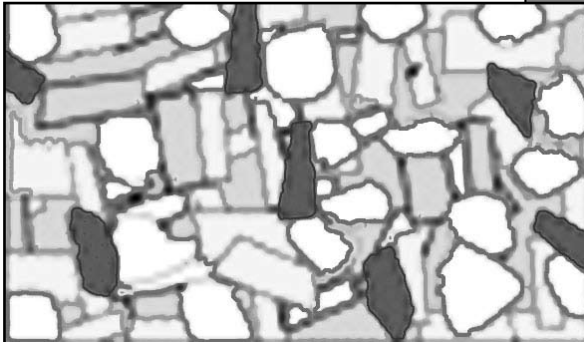


Grain Size: The grain size in rocks varies from fine-grained to coarse-grained.

Fine-grained rocks (such as basalt) have small grains and may or may not contain crystals suspended within the fine grain matrix.



basalt



granite

Coarse-grained rocks (such as granite) are often composed entirely of large crystals. There are many intermediate levels of graininess.

Layering: Sedimentary rocks are composed of layers. The layers result from the piling up and compacting of sediment in lakes, rivers, or oceans. Metamorphic rocks can also appear layered. Rocks such as sandstone and shale are good examples of layered rocks.

