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Engineering Geology Lecture Notes

UNIT: 1 INTRODUCTION

GEOLOGY (in Greek, Geo means Earth, Logos means Science) is a branch of science dealing with the study of the Earth. It is also known as earth science. The study of the earth as a whole, its origin, structure, composition and the nature of the processes which have given rise to its present position is called as geology. Geology comprises the following branches:

1. Crystallography
2. Mineralogy
3. Petrology
4. Geophysics
5. Geochemistry
6. Structural Geology
7. Stratigraphy (historical geology)
8. Physical Geology
9. Geomorphology
10. Paleontology
11. Hydrogeology
12. Engineering Geology
13. Urban Geology
14. Economic Geology
15. Mining Geology

Crystallography: The study of the characters of crystals is known as crystallography. Crystals are bodies bounded by flat faces (surfaces), arranged on a definite plane due to internal arrangements of atoms.

Mineralogy: The study of the characters of minerals (e.g. quartz, pyroxene, amphibole, mica, chlorite, garnet) is known as Mineralogy. A mineral is a naturally occurring homogeneous substance; intrinsically defined with a definite chemical composition, with a certain physical properties and crystalline structures.

Note: Coal, oil etc. are considered as minerals THROUGH they arise by organic matter under exceptional conditions.

Petrology: The study of rocks in all their aspects including their mineralogy, textures, structures (systematic description of rocks in hand specimens and thin sections), origin and their relationships to other rocks.

Geophysics: The section of the earth which include the structure, physical conditions and evolutionary history of the earth as a whole.

Geochemistry: The study of chemical composition of minerals and rocks of the earth.

Structural Geology is the study of rock structures such as folds that have resulted from movements and deformation of the earth's crust.

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