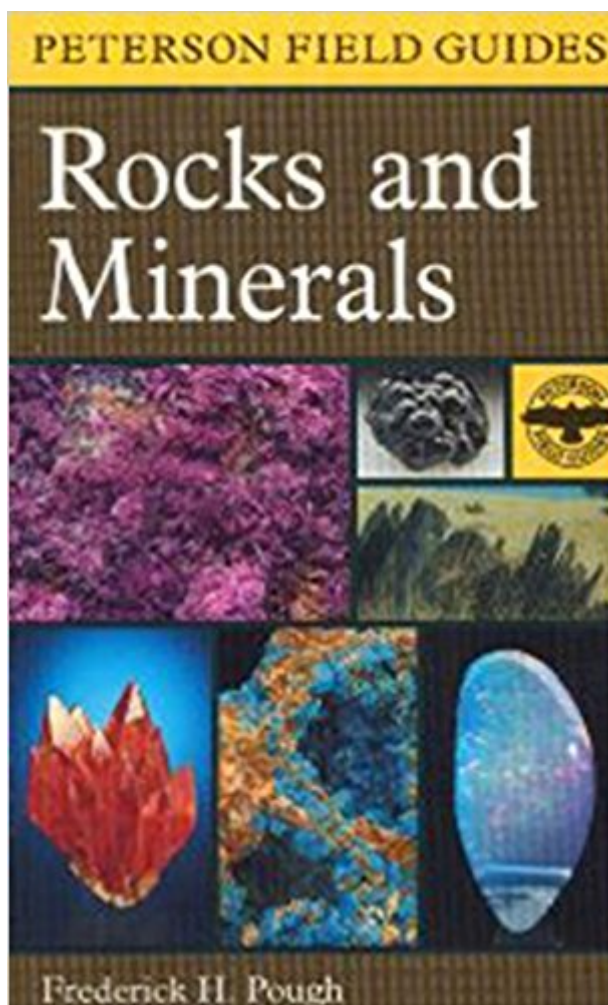


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# A Field Guide To Rocks And Minerals (Peterson Field Guides)



## Synopsis

The definitive guide to rocks and minerals, completely updated for the fifth edition, includes 385 color photographs showing rocks, minerals, and geologic formations. Hundreds of minerals are described, with details such as geographic formations. Hundreds of minerals are described, with details such as geographic distribution, physical properties, chemical composition, and crystalline structures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Roger Tory Peterson, one of the world's greatest naturalists, received every major award for ornithology, natural science, and conservation as well as numerous honorary degrees, medals, and citations, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Peterson Identification System has been called the greatest invention since binoculars. These editions include updated material by Michael O'Brien, Paul Lehman, Bill Thompson III, Michael DiGiorgio, Larry Rosche, and Jeffrey A. Gordon.

I have purchased this book three times as a professional geologist and mineral collector because I've destroyed them in the field. It has great descriptions and better information than other books such as the National Audubon Society Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals. I do enjoy the plates although I would like to see more examples of the minerals, however, that being said, its a bit of a pipe dream to have all the examples of the minerals, its simply an impossibility. As a mineralogy field guide its a great resource to be able to know what tests to perform to prove you have one

mineral over another, and the way the book classifies the minerals by constituent also assists, however, its not always the most obvious in how to narrow down different mineral types. You must have a rudimentary understanding of your minerals before you can use this book to any extent, and if you want to use it to its full extent, you better make your own book and know how to do all of the tests. As a field geologist, I've had to use the most rudimentary field supplies to determine mineralogies and this book helps, but be sure you read, read, and read to be sure you know what you are looking at and doing. Its a fantastic resource, but do not make it your only one.

I chose 4 stars because while I really liked this book and it helped me immensely in my mineralogy course, I did NOT like that all the pictures of the minerals were condensed into a section of colored pages in the middle of the book. The information on the minerals was superb, and I think for a seasoned geologist who knows their minerals by heart would appreciate this book, but for someone who's still learning what each mineral looks like and wants to know some common physical properties of minerals, this was a little bit inconvenient. I have to say I LOVED that there's a section on crystallography at the beginning of the book. Definitely buy it if you need information on minerals' occurrences, properties, crystal structure, and how to test them. Do NOT buy it if you're a hobbyist who wants to easily find what a mineral looks like and identify minerals strictly by their physical properties.

As a geology student studying mineral identification I looked long and hard at every R&M book I could find and came to the conclusion the 4th edition of this work is the best. Why not the 5th? While it has better photographs for the most part it's not cross referenced. So if you look up Actinolite and go to the plate with the image it has no reference to the text about the mineral! the 4th DOES! Sounds small but if your doing a lot of work the page flipping gets tiresome and it was such an easy thing to do....Also the section on rocks is weaker in the 5th. Also as mentioned in other reviews the binding is subpar and not worthy of a Field Manual. Cheap paperback with poor type set as compared with the 4th. Just harder to read. The 4th has the classic field manual feel to it and one has confidence it wont self destruct in a ruck sack on a collecting trip. The color photos are a slight improvement but don't suffice for sharp detail and please note color is a poor indicator of minerals. Sure a great color image would be wonderful but a B&W that highlights the important detail will serve us better. Much of the Pough text seems in tact and is the lone saving grace! the descriptions are a great help to my understanding and far and away the best out there. I know these sound like minor complaints but I nail with one star to hopefully rattle the publishers cage and print a new

permanent edition worthy of Dr. Pough's effort. I found a similar recent Peterson Guide to medicinal plants that have nice sewn flex binding for \$2 more than the R&M book! The current Bird guide has the classic type set. I even called the publisher to see if they published a "field guide" version as opposed to this paperback and was met in a joking manner that was of no help. So c'mon! is one of the best places to get messages across when publishers laugh in our faces! This work is too important to let cheap publishers do a half effort job on. And go buy a mint copy of the 4th used for \$5!

A great little book for quick identification of rocks and minerals. Small enough to carry in a pocket. Very thorough.

Pro: More technical in scope and more detailed information on mineral properties than most field guides. Con: Not quite as useful for visual mineral identification such as the Audubon guide. Great reference; better for more experienced collectors.

Full of in depth technical information and 64 color pages. Covers geographical distribution, classification, physical properties, chemical properties, crystal classifications, descriptions

Absolutely love this reference book. Read from cover to cover and learned a lot.

Well written. I am trying to identify dozens of rock samples left to me by my late geologist father and this will help. I took my Geology classes 50 years ago, along with hundreds of other students in the same class.

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