

DESCRIBING SIZE GRADES OF BEACH AND OTHER SEDIMENTARY MATERIALS

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Lacking special equipment or the services of a specialist, the range of coarseness of sedimentary accumulations can be described for the record by systematic use of simple devices. The following scale of grade terms conforms to most general usage:

Size in inches	Size in mm.	Name of material	of grains
10	256	gravel	boulders cobbles
2.5	64	fine gravel	pebbles
1/12	2	very coarse sand	grains
1/25	1	coarse sand	"
1/50	1/2	medium sand	"
1/100	1/4	fine sand	"
1/200	1/8	very fine sand	"
1/400	1/16	silt	"
1/6400	1/256	clay	"

For extensive work sieves are necessary; it will, however, be very useful if casual observations are made specific and consistent with the above terms. For larger sizes, one can select and lay out samples showing approximately the above limits for more ready visualization in making detailed notes. Intermediate and smaller sizes can be laid on a grid background of quadrille paper for rough estimation megascopically or under a magnifier. Any essay of this sort is greatly superior to snap guesses which tend to become stereotyped without valid basis. Proportions are best stated by weights or volumes reduced to percentages (even when only estimated).