



Rocks

Anorthosite

Type:

Igneous; intrusive.

Texture/Appearance:

Medium to coarse-grained, equigranular with elongated tabular plagioclase.

Color:

Dark gray to bluish-gray, sometimes lighter shades.

Mineralogy/Chemistry:

Almost exclusively plagioclase (usually labradorite) with less than 10% mafic minerals. Accessories include pyroxene, olivine, chromite, magnetite and ilmenite.

Occurrence/Use:

Occurs principally in large, ill-defined intrusions. Most are Precambrian in age and are found typically in rocks of the Canadian Shield, including major outcrops in Labrador, Quebec, and Newfoundland. In the U.S., occurrences include the Adirondacks of New York, the Duluth Complex in Minnesota, and the Stillwater Complex in Montana. Some types of anorthosite may be used as an ornamental building stone, in the manufacture of ceramics and glass, or as a source of aluminum.