Earth Science

Sedimentary Rock

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Learning Objectives

At the end of this module, you should be able to:

- Recognize Arbuckle Limestone as an outcrop formation in Oklahoma
- Recall and state the primary chemical composition of limestone rock
- List two or three interesting facts about the limestone

Definitions and Key Words

Limestone – a sedimentary rock consisting predominantly of calcium carbonate, varieties of which are formed from the skeletons of marine microorganisms and coral.

Arbuckle Mountains – The Arbuckle Mountains are the oldest known formations in the United States between the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains.

Calcium carbonate – Calcium carbonate is a chemical compound with the formula $CaCO_3$. It is a common substance found in rocks as the minerals calcite and aragonite (most notably as limestone).

Interesting Facts We Found

The primary **chemical composition** of limestone $(CaCO_3)$ is the same as a pearl $(CaCO_3)$.

The Arbuckle Limestone is **deep below the surface in Kansas**. The formation is over 6,000 feet beneath the surface in some area and sometimes contains oil.

Limestone has **many uses**. It is used to purify iron in blast furnaces, as a material in concrete and mortar, and sometimes in the making of certain types of glass.

The Arbuckle Mountains

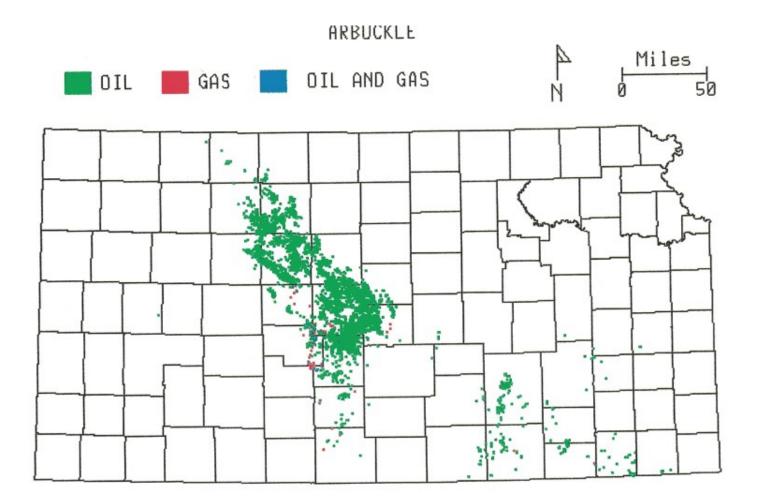


Turner Falls: Arbuckle Mountains



http://www.panoramio.com/photo/56839511

Arbuckle Limestone in KS

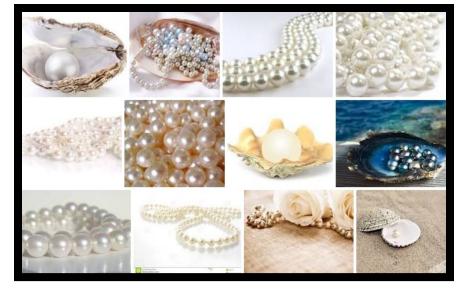


$CaCO_3$

Limestone

Pearls





Participant Exercise

Practice writing and saying the chemical composition of limestone.

- On your notes, write down Ca CO 3
 - The Ca stands for Calcium
 - The C stands for Carbon
 - The O stands for Oxygen
- CO₃ is an unstable oxide called Carbon Trioxide
- When Calcium and Carbon Trioxide combine it makes a chemical compound called Calcium Carbonate

Our Team's Major Take-Away

Many of the outcrops along Oklahoma highways display layers of limestone, sandstone and shale – sedimentary rock.

An important limestone outcrops in Oklahoma's Arbuckle mountains and is named after the mountain range (and indirectly named after Gen. Matthew Arbuckle).

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