Sedimentary Rocks

Sedimentary Rock- rocks formed by the litification (or solidification) or rock fragments or sediments

How do Sedimentary Rocks form?

Chemical Weathering- decomposition of rock due to chemical reactions

Mechanical Weathering- decomposition of rock due to brute force, such as freeze/thaw cycles or wind abrasion

Types of Sediment

Detrital or clastic sediments- consist of rock fragments, mineral grains or clay minerals

Chemical sediments- dissolved ions that join together to form a solid, these are inorganic precipiatates

Biochemical sediments- form through biological chemical processes, such as little critters leaving behind their calcite shells

All you need to remember today is classifying between detrital and biochemical/chemical. You don't need to know how to determine between chemical and biochemical.

Sedimentary Structures

Stratification- either bedding of layering which is the most distinctive feature of sedimentary rocks

Laminations- formation of thin strata less than 1cm thick

Rocks that are *fissile* are those that contain very thin sheets consecutively. The way to distinguish between a mud/siltstone and a mud/siltshale is the presence of these thin parallel sheets. Shales are fissile, stones aren't.