

Earth Systems
Mr. Varner
Topographic and geologic maps
Lab experiment

Geologic Map Color Codes

Use the following colors for coloring the geologic map, as well as the Description of Map Units and Correlation of Map units on the key to the geologic map.

Geologic maps generally use colors that are similar for each geologic period.

On U.S. maps, sedimentary rocks are usually lightly colored. Quaternary is yellow, Neogene is yellow-orange or orange, Paleogene is brown or tan, etc.

However, igneous rocks (volcanic extrusive and plutonic intrusive) are usually very bright reds, oranges, purples, pinks, and magentas.

The **important thing** is for the key to exactly match the map, so you have a good map and matching key.

Q = Quaternary period

K = Cretaceous period

J = Jurassic period

Qaf — light gray

Qya — yellow

Qoa — buff (very light tan yellow)

Qoc — golden yellow

Kmm — dark magenta or medium plum pink

Kr — light pink

Kis — light lavender pink

Kgd — medium tan

Kmg — rose pink (gray-pink)

Kqbd — salmon pink

Kd — bright medium pink

KJ — medium blue-purple

KJd — reddish purple