

felspar is a term applied when the crystals have a considerable degree of transparency. **Compact felspar** is a name of more vague signification. The substance so called appears to contain both potash and soda.

FELSPATHIC. Of or belonging to felspar.

FERRUGINOUS. Any thing containing iron. *Etym., ferrum, iron.*

FISSILE, easily cleft, dividing readily into an indefinite number of parallel laminæ, like slates.

FLOETZ ROCKS. A German term applied to the secondary strata by the geologists of that country, because these rocks were supposed to occur most frequently in flat horizontal beds. *Etym., flütz, a layer or stratum.*

FLORA. The various kinds of trees and plants found in any country constitute the **FLORA** of that country in the language of botanists.

FLUVIATILE. Belonging to a river. *Etym., fluvius, a river.*

FORAMINIFERA. A name given by D'Orbigny to a family of microscopic shells. Their different chambers are united by a small perforation or *foramen*. Recent observation has shown that some at least are not Cephalopoda, as D'Orbigny supposed.

FORMATION. A group, whether of alluvial deposits, sedimentary strata, or igneous rocks, referred to a common origin or period.

FOSSIL. All minerals were once called fossils, but geologists now use the word only to express the remains of animals and plants found buried in the earth. *Etym., fossilis, any thing that may be dug out of the earth.*

FOSSILIFEROUS. Containing organic remains.

GALENA. A metallic ore, a compound of lead and sulphur. It has often the appearance of highly polished lead. *Etym., γαλεω, galeo, to shine.*

GARNET. A simple mineral, generally of a deep red colour, crystallized; most commonly met with in mica slate, but also in granite and other igneous rocks.

GASTEROPODS. A division of the Testacea, in which, as in the limpet, the foot is attached to the body. *Etym., γαστήρ, gaster, belly, and ποδα, poda, feet.*

GAULT. A provincial name in the east of England for a series of beds of clay and marl, the geological position of which is between the Upper and Lower Greensand.

GAVIAL. A kind of crocodile found in India.

GEM, or GEMMULE, from the Latin *gemma*, a bud. The term, applied to zoophytes, means a young animal not confined within an envelope or egg.

GEOLOGY, GEOGNOSY. Both mean the same thing; but with an unnecessary degree of refinement in terms, it has been proposed to call our description of the structure of the earth *geognosy* (*Etym., γέα, gea, earth, and γινωσκω, ginosco, to know,*) and our theoretical speculations as to its formation *geology* (*Etym., γέα, and λογος, logos, a discourse.*)

GLACIER. Vast accumulations of ice and hardened snow in the Alps and other lofty mountains. *Etym., glace, French for ice.*

GLACIS. A term borrowed from the language of fortification, where it means an easy insensible slope or declivity, less steep than a *talus*, which see.

GNEISS. A stratified primary rock, composed of the same materials as granite, but having usually a larger proportion of mica and a laminated texture. The word is a German miner's term.

GRAMINEÆ. The order of plants to which grasses belong. *Etym., gramen, grass.*

GRANITE. An unstratified or igneous rock, generally found inferior to or associated with the oldest of the stratified rocks, and sometimes penetrating them in the form of dikes and veins. It is usually composed of three simple minerals, felspar, quartz, and mica, and derives its name from having a coarse *granular* structure; *granum*, Latin for grain. Waterloo bridge, and the paving-stones in the carriage-way of the London streets, afford good examples of the most common varieties of granite.

GREENSAND. Beds of sand, sandstone, limestone, belonging to the Cretaceous Period. The name is given to these beds because they often, but not always, contain an abundance of green earth or chlorite scattered through the substance of the sandstone, limestone, &c.

GREENSTONE. A variety of trap, composed of hornblende and felspar.

GREYWACKÉ. *Grauwacke*, a German name, generally adopted by geologists for some of the most ancient fossiliferous strata. The rock is very often of a grey colour; hence the name, *grau*, being German for grey, and *wacke*, being a provincial miner's term.