

- CONFORMABLE.** When the planes of one set of strata are generally parallel to those of another set which are in contact, they are said to be conformable.
- CONGLOMERATE OR PUDDINGSTONE.** Rounded water-worn fragments of rock or pebbles, cemented together by another mineral substance, which may be of a siliceous, calcareous, or argillaceous nature. *Etyim., con*, together, *glomerio*, to heap.
- CONIFERÆ.** An order of plants which, like the fir and pine, bear cones or tops in which the seeds are contained. *Etyim., conus*, cone, and *fero*, to bear.
- CRATER.** The circular cavity at the summit of a volcano, from which the volcanic matter is ejected. *Etyim., crater*, a great cup or bowl.
- CROP OUT.** A miner's or mineral surveyor's term, to express the rising up or exposure at the surface of a stratum or series of strata.
- DEBRIS.** A term applied to the fragments or remains of disintegrated rocks.
- DEBRITUS.** See "Debris."
- DELTA.** When a great river, before it enters the sea, divides into separate streams, they often diverge and form two sides of a triangle, the sea being the base. The land included by the three lines, and which is invariably alluvial, was first called in the case of the Nile, a delta, from its resemblance to the letter of the Greek alphabet which goes by that name. Geologists apply the term to alluvial land formed by a river at its mouth, without reference to its precise shape.
- DENUDATION.** The carrying away by the action of running water of a portion of the solid materials of the land, by which inferior rocks are laid bare. *Etyim., denudo*, to lay bare.
- DIKES.** When a mass of the unstratified or igneous rocks, such as granite, trap, and lava, appears as if injected into a great rent in the stratified rocks, cutting across the strata, it forms a dike; and as they are sometimes seen running along the ground, and projecting, like a wall, from the softer strata on both sides of them having wasted away, they are called in the north of England and in Scotland *dikes*, the provincial name for wall. It is not easy to draw the line between dikes and veins. The former are generally of larger dimensions, and have their sides parallel for considerable distances; while veins have generally many ramifications, and these often thin away into slender threads.
- DILUVIUM.** Those accumulations of gravel and loose materials which, by some geologists, are said to have been produced by the action of a diluvial wave or deluge sweeping over the surface of the earth. *Etyim., diluvium*, deluge.
- DIP.** When a stratum does not lie horizontally, but is inclined, it is said to dip towards some point of the compass, and the angle it makes with the horizon is called the angle of dip or inclination.
- EARTH'S CRUST.** Such superficial parts of our planet as are accessible to human observation.
- ESCARPMENT.** The abrupt face of a ridge of high land. *Etyim., escarper*, French, to cut steep.
- ESTUARIES.** Inlets of the land, which are entered both by rivers and the tides of the sea. Thus we have the estuaries of the Thames, Severn, Tay, &c. *Etyim., æstus*, the tide.
- FELSPAR.** A simple mineral, which, next to quartz, constitutes the chief material of rocks. The white angular portions in granite are feldspar. This mineral always contains some alkali in its composition. In common feldspar the alkali is potash; in another variety, called Albite or Cleavelandite, it is soda. Glassy feldspar is a term applied when the crystals have a considerable degree of transparency. Compact feldspar is a name of more vague signification. The substance so called appears to contain both potash and soda.
- FELSPATHIC.** Of or belonging to feldspar.
- FERRUGINOUS.** Any thing containing iron. *Etyim., ferrum*, iron.
- 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. *Etyim., flötz*, a layer or stratum.
- 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. — *Etyim., fossilis*, any thing that may be dug out of the earth.
- FOSSILIFEROUS.** Containing organic remains.
- GABNET.** 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.
- GEOLOGY, GÆGNOSEY.** 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 *gægnosy*, (*Etyim., gæa*, earth, and *ginosco*, to know,) and our theoretical speculations as to its formation *geology*, (*Etyim., logos*, a discourse.)