

Rock Stability

Minerals which form at:

- **high temperatures** and pressures are

least stable, and

weather most quickly

- lower temperatures and pressures are **most stable**.

Texture of Rocks

- SMALL CRYSTALS ----- COOLED QUICKLY

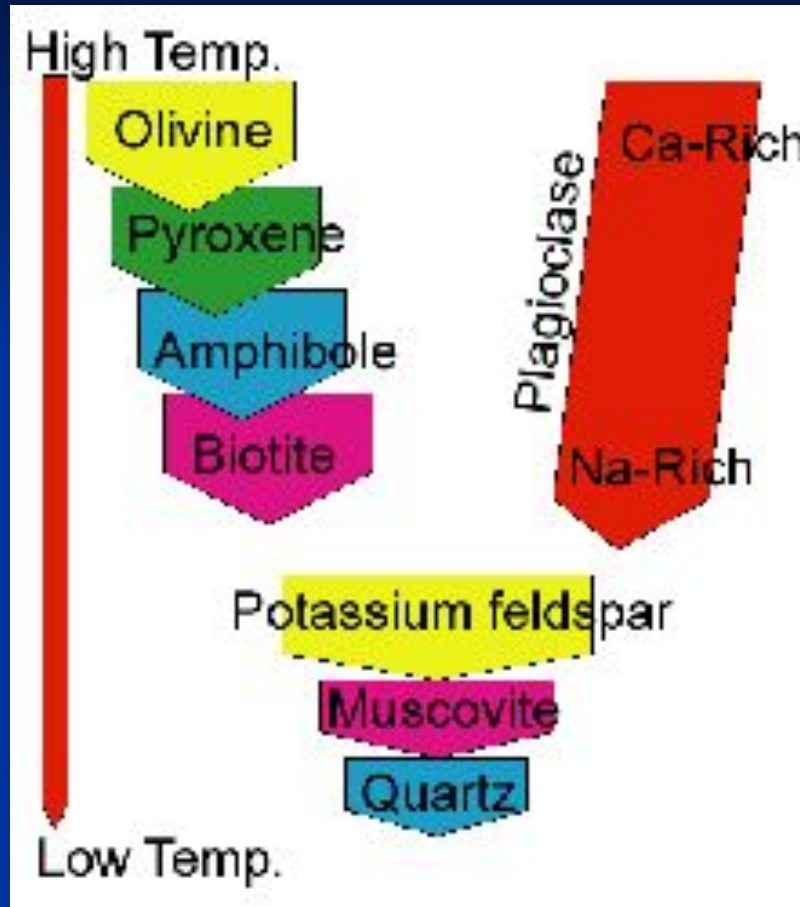
(because of the **reduced time for atoms** to attain minimum energy configuration)

- BIG CRYSTALS ----- COOLED SLOWLY

- Cooling may be so rapid, as in a volcanic eruption, that **no crystalline structure** develops before solidification:

and an amorphous material such as obsidian (volcanic glass) is formed.

Bowens reaction series



Each mineral is more stable than the one above it on the list.

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