Limestone grains under a hand lens

Compare the shape and interior of several grains on one exposed face.



Oolitic limestone

Wyoming, USA

Look for repeated round grains. On a cut grain, look for nested coatings around a core.

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Quartz sandstone

Ohio, USA

The pale interior contains quartz sand. Iron staining near the edges changes the color.

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Fossiliferous limestone

Ohio, USA

Trace one ribbed brachiopod shell. Its ridges follow a single shell surface.

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Your specimen

Typical grain width (mm)

Outline and internal structure

Possible identification and evidence