Earth Science Regents

Igneous, Sedimentary, or Metamorphic?

I know a rock is igneous if:

• I see randomly located intergrown/interlocking crystals

OR

• I see vesicles where gases escaped as lava cooled

OR

• I see that the texture of the rock is glassy due to extremely rapid cooling (it is Obsidian!)

I know a rock is sedimentary if:

I see layers of sediment cemented together

OR

• I see cobbles, pebbles, and sand grains cemented together

OR

I see fossils

OR

• I see ripple marks / mud cracks

I know a rock is metamorphic if:

I see bands of light and dark minerals

OR

• I see distorted / folded, foliated structure

OR

• I see foliations or mineral alignment texture (plate-like or flakey) with minerals like mica

OR

 I see a very hard, resistant, uniform, and weathered quartzy boulder