

A NAVAJO-ENGLISH THESAURUS OF GEOLOGICAL TERMS

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ABSTRACT.— A bilingual Navajo-English thesaurus of selected common geological and related terms is presented here for the use of geoscientists and geoscience educators who work on or near the Navajo Nation, or who have an interest in Navajo ethnogeology.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Most people who are not fluent speakers of the Diné (Navajo) language find it difficult to enunciate; and, as Navajo was predominantly an oral language until the mid-20th Century (Acrey, 1994), many fluent speakers do not read or write it. As these issues cannot be addressed in this thesaurus, those interested in learning more about the language are encouraged to consult the comprehensive grammar and dictionary by Young and Morgan (1987), the abridged dictionary by Austin and Lynch (1983), or to contact the Center for Diné Studies at Diné College, Shiprock, New Mexico.

COMMON GEOLOGICAL AND RELATED TERMS IN ENGLISH AND NAVAJO

Abalone shell	diichií'
Adobe	bis
Agate	tsé bee nátsheet
Air	ní'ch'i
Alcohol	tó híkoní
Alkaline	íecyáán, táání'
Aluminum	béésh 'ádaaszóólígíí, béésh 'ászólí
Amber	tséjéé'
Ammonia	'azee' yí'chí'í'í'gíí
Aragonite	hadahoniye'
Arroyo	bikoooh, cháshk'eh
Arsenic	béésh híbáhá
Asteroid	sq' astse'
Astronomer	sq' neí'kaahiis
Astronomy	sq' naalkaah, yádí'í'í'í' beec hadilyaaígíí naalkaah
Atmosphere	ni'ch'i
Azurite	'adisht'í'ish
Bark	ahásh't'óózh, 'akásh't'óózh
Blue ochre	tsé bee diilt'í'ish
Bluff	deez'á
Bone	ts'in
Boulder, large rock	tsé'tsoh
Brass	béésh hí'tsoii
Bronze	béésh hí'chí'í'ii
Butte	dahaská, tsé'lání, tsé si'á
Canyon	tsé'koooh, tsé'yi'
Carbon dioxide	ní'ch'i dí'í'idígíí
Career	hanaanish, hanaanish beec iiná áj'í'í'nií, naanish beec iiná ní'j'í'í'ceé'ii

Caves (Rock)	tsé'áán, tsé'níí'
Celestial space	yá'áash
Cell	hinááh ats'íis yee hadít'éii dóó yee hinánígíí
Cement	tsé náádlee'hí, tsé nádleehí
Clay	bis, hasht'í'ish dits'ídí
Clay (Blue)	bis doot'í'izh
Clay (Red)	bis hí'chí'í'í, íeczh hí'chí'í'í
Clay (White)	dleesh, bis hí'gaáí, íeczh hí'gaáí
Cliff	tsé ní't'í'í
Clouds	k'os
Clouds (Dark)	k'osdihí'í
Coal	íecjin, tsé'kq'
Coal mine	íecjin haagécéd, tsé'kq' haagécéd
Coal miner	íecjin haigédí
Coke	íecjin bit'écézh
Combustible	híkon
Comet	sq'tsoh jóhanaa'éí yináalwo'í'gíí
Concrete	tsé nádleehé
Concretions or fossils	tsé dínisé
Constellation	sq'fání
(Big Dipper) Ursa Major	náhookqos bika'
Cassiopeia	náhookqos bi'áád
Contaminate	'ahí'dí'í'í' aaf
Contamination	'i' ní'iyáá'
Copper	béésh hí'chí'í'ii
Copper ore	tsé bí'bécézh'hí'chí'í'í
Coral (Red)	tsé'chí'í'í, yoo'hí'chí'í'í
Corrosion	tó béésh yiyáágo
Corundum, carborundum, whetstone	tsé béésh beec daak'aashígíí
Crater	háadahazts'aa'
Crest	hí'gáá'
Crevice (in the rock)	tsék'iz
Crystal	tsé'ghádi' ní'dí'nií
Crystalline (as clear water)	ni'tó'í, ní'ts'í'í'í
Crystalline basement rocks	ni'bit'ááh tsé ní't'í'í
Dam	be'ek'id, dá'deest'í'in
Dark (ness)	chaha'heet
Dawn	hayoo'káá'
Decay	dí'dzíd, dí'í'dzid yileeh
Deposit (e.g., coal, ore)	hadadeeskq'
Dew or dewdrop	adah too', dahtoo'
Dike (Mafic)	tsézhin 'í'áhí, chézhin 'í'áhí
Ditch, canal, trench	íecyi'í'geed, to yí'geed, yí'ldzis
Domed (laccolithic) mountain	dzi' náhoozi'í'ii
Dry (area)	hóó'tseii
Dry (climate)	ná'há'í'sááh

Dust	łeezh, bé'eshjoł, łeezh dibahí	(arc)	názhahgo ídzooígíí
Dust level	łeezh dahoojoł ánéelt'e'ígíí	(circumference)	abqah ahée'ídzooígíí
Earth	nahasdzáán, ni', ni'asdzáán, ni'hasdzáán, nihosdzáán, ni'hosdzáán, ni'nahasdzáán, nohosdzáán	(oval)	hááhideeneez
Earth's atmosphere	nahasdzáán bii nłch'ih	(rectangle)	heeneez
Earth's core	nahasdzáán biiniih, nahosdzáán bijéí	(diagonal)	nish'náádęę'go naanii dóo yaago ídzo
Earthquake	ni' naha'náni' nihi'nááh, ni'náhidí'nááh, ni' ndaha'nánígíí	(apex)	dahats'os
East	ha'a'aah	(right angle)	nish'náájigo ídzo
Electrical discharge	atsinilt'ish k'aa'	(right triangle)	táa'go yist'ah
Electrical storm	'dilch'il, n'dilch'il	(hypotenuse)	nisht'adęę'go naaniigo dóo
Electricity	atsinilt'ish		yaago ídzo
Elevation	dah, hódah, wódahgo	Glucose	ch'iyáán náálkaqad bee jiinánígíí
Ellipse	názbąsgo heeneez	Gold	óolaa
Energy	bee adziilí, bee hwiinéyígíí	Gravel, small stones	tsézéí, tsé yázhi
Environment	bee ahéehool'áii, bee hahodít'éii, bee hoł hahodít'éii, ináhaazláii	Gravity	óhonaa'éí bii' tsa'jilgish biką'
Environment and ecology	hózhóqogo iiná	Ground	ni', łeeshtah
Enzyme	ats'íis yee nooséíígíí	Ground level	nihookáá, nohokáá
Erosion (by wind and water)	tó dóo níyol 'ooshasígíí	Groundwater	łeeyi'to, tó biyáázh, tóháálı
Erosion of layered rocks	yizhosh	Gypsum	dleesh, łeezh łigaaí
Erupt (lava from a volcano)	hada'nilghaash	Gypsum (Crystalline, Selenite)	tséts'agí
Explode	deesdqoh, diishdqoh	Hammer	bee atsidí
Explosive	dildon	Hail	ńló
Extract	biyi'dęę' hahagéedgo, biyi'dęę'hahalyéego, biyi'ęę' hajiiléego	Heat	bee dahoozdo, hado, niishgááh
Fall	aak'cego, aak'ech	Heavy water	tó nidaaz
Fault	'a'át'e', bąqahági 'át'éii, ba'át'e'	Helix	hahoots'ce'
Fire	kq'	Hematite or Red Ochre	chíih
Flammable	łikon	Hexagon	hastáągóo 'adeez'á
Flesh	'atsı'	High elevation	hááhdi shıı, hódah, hót'ááh, yát'ááh
Flint or arrowhead	béesh, béesh ast'ogii, tsé'áwózı	Hogback	tsé yik'áán
Fog	'ááh, 'áhi	Hopi Buttes Volcanic Field	tsézhin bii'
Folding of rocks (gentle)	'aháqł niilyé	Horizon (below ground line)	ńk'ashbąq
Food chain	ch'iiyáán, ch'iiyáán nıdanıdłiniı, ch'iiyáán nıdoodleełii	(above ground line)	yák'ashbąq
Frost	shoh	Hurricane	tónteel bikaah níyoltsoh
Galaxy	sq' dah naas jaa'ígíí, yá dıłxıł honı'áán	Ice	tin
Geology	tsé na'alcaah	Iodine	'azee' 'adıłidı, 'azee' 'adıłidı łizhinígíí
Geologist ni' bitł'áahdi 'ahoot'éii ndeıłkaahígíí, tsé ndeıłkaahígíí		Iron	béesh doot'ızh
Geometrical Figures	ałhida'diidzo dóo nıda'asdzóígíí	Iron (cast)	béesh dit'ódı
(obtuse angle)	ałhi'diidzo	Iron ore	chíih doot'ızh, tsé ndaaz
(triangle)	táa'góo yist'ah	Jet (black gemstone)	bááshzhinii
(base)	ayaadi ídzooígíí	Lake	be'ek'id, tó dah siyı
(acute angle)	hááhideeneezgo yist'ah	Land	kéyah
(square)	dik'ę	Landslide	hodichııı
(side)	bááłk'iiz, bııghahgi	Lava, trap rock, malpais	tsézhin, chézhin
(circle)	násbąs, nımaz	Lava flow (viscous, congealed)	tsézhin ndaneezhyeęęzhı
(diameter)	ałnı' góne' ídzo, ałts'ąądzo	Lava plug, volcanic neck	tsézhin 'ıı'áhi, chézhin 'ıı'áhi
(center)	ałnı'	Lead	béesh dilyıhi, béesh dit'óodıgıı, dilyıhi
(radius)	ałnı' dóo bibąqııı' ídzooígíí, tsin sitął náhásbąs	Lead concentrations	béesh doot'ızh tó bitahgóo ánéelt'e'ígíí
(section)	bits'át'ánígíí	Lead contamination	béesh doot'ızh bilááhgóo tó bitah silıı'go
		Leaf	'at'ąq'
		Life	'iiná
		Light	'adinıdıın
		Lightning	ashgish, 'atsinilt'ish
		Lignite	łeejin
		Limestone (burnt; quicklime)	tsé díłid
		Lines	da'ídzo
		(straight line)	k'éhézdongo ídzo
		(perpendicular lines)	náhást'ahgi ałhida'diidzo

(curves)	názhahgo nida'asdzó	Ochre (Black)	łeejin, tséko'
(parallel lines)	afhąąh da'idzo	Ochre (Blue)	tsé bee diilt'ish
Liquid	tó, bito'	Ochre (Red)	chííh
Lunar eclipse	ooljée' daaztsá	Ochre (Yellow)	łeetso, łeetsoii
Magnesium	béesh 'ászólí, béesh łikoní	Oil	ak'ah
Magnet, magnetic iron	béesh ná'ilááhí	Olivine (Peridot)	tsé doot'izhii
Malachite	'adishł'ish	Orbit	bináádaál, yináádaál, yináalwoł
Map	kéyah be'elyaaígíí	Outer space	yágháhookáán, yáhoníkáán
Measurement	'í'neel'ąąh	Oxidize	yiiłłh
(depth)	íídéetąą'	Oxygen	niłch'i yá'át'ééhii
(height)	deigo ánízáád	Peridot (Olivine)	tsé doot'izhii
(width)	naaniigo áníłnééz	Petrified wood	tsé nástáán
(length)	náasjigo áníłnééz	Petroleum	tóko'í
Mercury (metal)	béesh tózháanii	Petroleum Geologist	tóko ndeiłkaahígíí
Mesa	dah 'azká	Petroleum Geology	tóko na'alcaah, tsé na'alcaah
Metal	béesh	Pick	'ałts'ąą' deeníní
Metal (Corrugated)	béesh doolk'oolí	Pinnacles	hók'ąąh, tsé'í'á, tsé nít'í'
Meteor	só náádiilwo'ígíí, sq' naalts'id, sq' nanidééhígíí, sq' nídíłwo'	Planets	kéyah yádiłhił bii' dahólónígíí
Meteor Crater	'adah hosh laní	Plants	nanise'
Mica	tsét'ágí, tséts'agí	Plateau	ch'íhini'ą, dah 'azká
Milky Way	yikáísdááhí, yikááh łees'áán yíłzhódí 'akáísdááhí	Platinum	béesh łigaii 'láahdi 'íłíinii
Mill	tsé yik'á, tsé yik'á bił haz'ąągo	Pollution	'i'niiyąą'
Milling (Uranium)	łeetso tsé dóó łeezh baąh haalk'áahgo	Propane gas	niłch'i łikoní
Mine	ha'agécéd, ha'agécéd bá haz'ąągo	Public water systems	tó yá'át'ééhii diné bá hólóogo óolzinii
Mine (underground)	ni'bitł'áahdi na'asgeedígíí, nohosdzáán biyi' di na'asgeed	Pumice	'asootse', tasootse'
Mine (surface, open pit, strip)	báą' díggécéd, ni' éí doodago nohosdzáán bikáá' dóó báą' díggécéd	Quarry	tsé haha'niłídí
Mine (shaft)	'a'áán	Quartz	tsé'áwózí, tséghádi'ndíinii
Miner	ha'agédí, haigédí	Radiation	hatsoo'alghak'aa', hatsoo'alghhałk'aa', łeetso ba'áte', łeetso bideezla' éí doodago tsa'jilgish
Mineral	ni' bitł'áahdi hólónígíí, nohosdzáán bii' bił haz'ánígíí, t'áadoo le'é łeeyi' dahólónígíí	Radiation (Solar)	jóhonaa'éí bii' tsa'jilgish bi'áád
Minerals (ground for ceremonial use)	tsé yik'áán	Radiative	bideezla' hólóogo
Mineralogist, Mining Engineer	ni' bitł'áahdi hólónonii ndeiłkaahígíí	Radioactivity	bideezla' na'alkidgo
Mining	ha'agécéd bi'oonishgo, ha'agécédgo	Rain	nahałtin, niłtsá
Mining industry	ha'agécéd bił dahda'ínééh	(female rain)	niłtsá bi'áád
Mist, spray	tózhool	(male rain)	niłtsá biką'
Molten, melted (it is)	díłłhíí'	(misting)	niłtsázhool
Monolith, rock spire	tsé 'í'ááhí	Rainbow	nááts'íłíid
Moon	ooljée', ł'éhonaa'éí	Rainwater	niłtsátoó'
Moon (crescent)	'ooljée' dah yiiłtá', 'ooljée' dah yiiłłh	Reclamation	hasł'ééhálnééhgo
Moon phases	ooljée' łahgo ánáá'niłł	Respect	hoł niłł
(first quarter)	hanibaąs	Reverence	jidísin
(full moon)	haníłbáąz	Risk	báhádzidgo hohodidoot'ihii
(last quarter)	chahałheel nádaáh		hólóogo, hohodidoot'ihgo, t'áadoole'é ba'át'e' hólóogo
(new moon)	dah yiiłtá	Rivers, creeks, and washes	tó dahniłnígíí
Mountain	dził	Rock	tsé
Mud	hasł'ish	Rock (in a rock, inside corner, rincon)	tsétł'áh
Narbona (Copper) Pass	béesh líchíí'ii bigiizh	Rock (depression or concavity on the surface)	tsé'édzis
Natural gas	niłch'i łikoní	Rock (overhanging ledge)	tséyaa hatsoh
Navajo Volcanic Field	tsézhin 'í'ááhí	Rock (struck by lightning)	tséghádinídeél
North	náhookos	Rock moss	tsé baąh 'aghaa'ígíí
Obsidian	noolyíinii	Rockslide	tsé náázhoozhí
		Rocky place	tsétah
		Rubber	jeeh dígházii
		Rust	ndiniichxííh
		Sacred Mountains	dził dadiyiniłgíí
		Sacred space	hodiyyiin

Sand	séí	Tar	jeeh fizhiní
Sandstone	tsé dizéígíí	Telescope	bee adéest'íí'
Sandstone (Popping; typically Cretaceous rocks that can explode if used in sweat lodges)	tsé dildó'í, tsé dildó'ii	Terrestrial	nihookáá' naaldeehii
Sandstone (Red)	tséłchíí'	Tin, tinfoil	béesh dildó'í, béesh kágí
Sandstone (White)	tséłgaii	Tornado or hurricane	naats'ó'oolóó'sii, níyoltsoh
Scoria	'asootse', tasootse'	Total	t'áá 'át'ego, 'ahióólta'go
Sea, ocean, large lake	tóniteel, tóniteel	Toxin or poison	k'aasdá
Sea level (___ft above sea level)	tóniteel bikáá'dóo deigo 'adées'eez	Turquoise	dootł'izhii
Sea Shell (White)	yoołgaii, yoo'łigaii	Universe	yádiłhił bii' bił haz'ánígíí
Seashore	tóniteel bibąąhgi	Up slope	niinah
Sediment	'atł'áshjání	Uranium	łeetso, łeetsoii
Sedimentary rocks (layered or thick stack)	'ahnáozt'í'	Uranium ore	tsé łeetso bitahígíí
Ship Rock (Diatreme neck)	tsé bit'a'í	Uranium mill	łeetso haalk'ááh, łeetso yik'á
Shovel	łeezh bee hahalkaadí	Uranium mill operation	łeetso yik'á bina'anish alkée' honí'á
Silver	béesh łigaii	Uranium miner	łeetso haigédí
Sky	yáh	Valley or Plain halgai, 'adzoogai, dadzígai, dzígai, ndziszgai, tééh	siil
Sky (blue or dark)	yádiłhił, yák diłhił	Vapor or steam	siil
Skyline, horizon	yánineel'á	Volcanic neck	tsézhin 'í'áhí, chézhin 'í'áhí
Soil or Dirt	łeezh, ni'hokáá'	Warm	honeezíłí, neezíłí, sizíłí
Soil (sub)	łeeyí'	Wash (Arroyo)	cháshk'eh
Soil (conservation)	kéyah bił k'fhwíínée'niil, kéyah baa 'áháyáájí	Water	tó
Solar eclipse	jóhonaa'éeí daaztsá	Water (Alkaline)	tódík'óózh
Solar system	kéyah jóhonaa'éeí bináákahígíí	Water (Ground)	łeeyi'to, tó biyáázh, tóháálí
Solid (as a rock)	níłdzil	Water (Heavy)	tó niidaaz
Solid figures	nida'asdzoóígíí	Water (Sacred)	tó 'ałchiní
(pyramid)	dik'ąągo heets'óóz	Water (Spring)	tó biyáázh
(cylinder)	níyiz	Water (Surface)	tooh
(cube)	dik'á	Water sample	tó haakąągo bee tó naalkaahígíí
(cone)	níyizgo heets'óóz	Water service line, pipe materials	béesh tó bii'danilínígíí
Solstice	shá niighááh	Water standards (for drinking)	tó daadlánígíí bibeechaz'áanii
Sound	'íits'a'	Water treatment	tó
Sound (going through water)	tóniil	hasht'eelnééh, t'áadoole'é doo yá'át'éehii nahgóó bąą kól'íigo	
South	shádi'ááh	Wave (on water)	tó bíishgháán yilk'oolígíí
Spring	daango	(an area)	hodoolk'ool
Star	sq'	Wave (Heat)	hadahoneestiin
Star (Morning/Evening)	sq'tsoh, sq'tsoh łigaii	Wave (Ocean)	tó náadadiidáhígíí, tó yilk'oolígíí
Star (shooting; meteor)	sq' ndaajechí, sq' yilwoł	Weather	t'áá ákwííł nítch'ih 'at'ąąh 'ánáánłígíí
Steel	béesh dootł'izh	Weight	das, 'ázníłdáás, hadas, dah 'adidloh, 'í'níłdáás
Stone	tsé	West	'e'e'aah
Stone (Porous)	tsé diyilí	Whirlpool	tó ná'oolmasígíí
Stone (Red)	tséłchíí'	Wind	níyol
Stone (White, ceremonial)	hadahoniye' łigai	Winter	hai, haigo
Stone flint (to make fire)	tséł'éeł	Wood	tsin
Strata (flat rocks forming a step pattern)	hadook'łh	Work	naanish
(thin sheets of rocks stacked)	'atł'idook'łh	Year	nááhái, yihah
Summer	shíigo		
Sun	jóhonaa'éeí, shá		
Sunbeam or sunray	shábit'óól		
Talc, talcum powder	tsé'ėjihí		
Tailings	séí éí doodago łeezh łeetso bąąh haal'éełgo		

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