

MYSTERY ROCK D

01 *Description of Location*

Found in the garden. Not *in-situ*. Original location unknown

02 *Picture / Photo*



03 *Colour*

White

04 *Texture*

Rough with jagged edges

05 *Hardness*

Very very hard – the hardest rock in the garden

06 *Lustre*

Shiny and sparkly

07 *Streak*

No streak against the other rocks

08 *Fracture / Cleavage*

Too hard to break with hands so don't know

09 *Other*

These are often found in riverbeds in the Waitaki District (keep an eye out for them once we are out of lockdown). It can be found in all size, from tiny sandy grains to huge rocks.

SOLUTION

WHAT DO THESE OBSERVATIONS TELL US?

Because they are found in riverbeds, we can work out they have been eroded and moved by rivers downstream. Sometimes you find them with jagged edges and sometimes with rounded edges. The shape of the edges tells us how far they have travelled (short distance means more jagged edges and a longer distance means more rounded edges).

KNOW WHAT IT IS?

Yes, it's quartz.

WHAT IS QUARTZ?

This rock was from probably a quartz vein cutting through schist. A quartz vein is formed when hot liquid (with quartz in it) flows through a rock and as the liquid cools the quartz cools and sets in place. You can find lots of quartz veins in some rocks – and sometimes they form beautiful criss-cross types of patterns!