

Suggested Colors for Geologic Maps

Techniques and Methods 11–B1

Plate 1

[This color chart shows suggested colors for different geologic ages, as well as colors for volcanic and igneous rocks. Numbers below each color box are CMYK color codes, as follows: A = 8%, 1 = 13%, 2 = 20%, 3 = 30%, 4 = 40%, 5 = 50%, 6 = 60%, 7 = 70%, X = 100%. Colors on this chart were chosen on the basis of how they look as printed on an offset printing press. As printed on an offset printing press, the colors conform to USGS geologic age color standards. However, if the digital file of this chart is printed on a computer-driven ink-jet plotter, some of the colors will not conform to the USGS geologic age colors. Users should be aware of this limitation and choose colors accordingly. Note that some of the dark combination colors (composed of high percentages of the two CM inks or the three CMY inks) are generally too dark to use for most purposes, because they can obscure topographic base features and geologic map data. On some computer-driven plotters, some of the darkest colors on this chart will print dark gray to black.]