

- KEUPER.** A German name for a member of the Upper New Red Sandstone.
- KIMMERIDGE CLAY.** A thick bed of clay, constituting a member of the Oolite Group. So called because it is found well developed at Kimmeridge, in the Isle of Purbeck, Dorsetshire.
- LACUSTRINE.** Belonging to a lake. *Etym.*, *lacus*, a lake.
- LAMANTINE.** A living species of the herbivorous Cetacea or whale tribe which inhabits the mouths of rivers on the coasts of Africa and South America: the sea-cow.
- LAMELLIFEROUS.** Having a structure consisting of thin plates or leaves like paper. *Etym.*, *lamella*, the diminutive of *lamina*, plate, and *fero*, to bear.
- LAMINÆ.** Latin for plates; used in geology for the smaller layers of which a stratum is frequently composed.
- LANDSLIP.** A portion of land that has slid down in consequence of disturbance by an earthquake, or from being undermined by water washing away the lower beds which supported it.
- LAPIDIFICATION** — Lapidifying process. Conversion into stone. *Etym.*, *lapis* stone, and *fo*, to make.
- LAPILLI.** Small volcanic cinders. *Lapillus*, a little stone.
- LAVA.** The stone which flows in a melted state from a volcano.
- LEPIDODENDRON**, a genus of fossil plants of the Coal Measures, intermediate in character between the Lycopodiums and coniferous plants.
- LEUCITE.** A simple mineral found in volcanic rocks, crystallized, and of a white colour. *Etym.*, *λευκος*, *leucos*, white.
- LIAS.** A provincial name for an argillaceous limestone, characterized together with its associated beds by peculiar fossils, and forming a particular group of strata, interposed between the Oolite and New Red Sandstone.
- LIGNIPEROUS.** A term applied to insects which destroy wood. *Etym.*, *lignum*, wood, and *perdo*, to destroy.
- LIGNITE.** Wood converted into a kind of coal. *Etym.*, *lignum*, wood.
- LITHODOMI.** Molluscous animals which form holes in solid rocks in which they lodge themselves. The holes are not perforated mechanically, but the rock appears to be dissolved. *Etym.*, *λιθος*, *lithos*, stone, and *δευω*, *demo*, to build.
- LITHOGENOUS POLYPS.** Animals which form coral.
- LITHOGRAPHIC STONE.** A slaty compact limestone, of a yellowish colour and fine grain, used in lithography, which is the art of drawing upon and printing from stone. *Etym.*, *λιθος*, *lithos*, stone, and *γραφο*, *grapho*, to write.
- LITHOIDAL.** Having a stony structure.
- LITHOLOGICAL.** A term expressing the stony structure or character of a mineral mass. We speak of the lithological character of a stratum as distinguished from its zoological character. *Etym.*, *λιθος*, *lithos*, stone, and *λογος*, *logos*, discourse.
- LITHOPHAGI.** Molluscous animals which form holes in solid stones. See "Lithodomi." *Etym.*, *λιθος*, *lithos*, stone, and *φαγειν*, *phagein*, to eat.
- LITHOPHITES.** The animals which form Stone-coral.
- LITTORAL.** Belonging to the shore. *Etym.*, *littus*, the shore.
- LOAM.** A mixture of sand and clay.
- LOPHIODON.** A genus of extinct quadrupeds, allied to the tapir, named from eminences on the teeth.
- LYCOPODIACEÆ.** Plants of an inferior degree of organization to Coniferæ, some of which they very much resemble in foliage, but all recent species are infinitely smaller. Many of the fossil species are as gigantic as, recent Coniferæ. Their mode of reproduction is analagous to that of ferns. In English they are called club-mosses, generally found in mountainous heaths in the north of England.
- LYDIAN STONE.** Flinty slate; a kind of quartz or flint, allied to Hornstone, but of a greyish black colour.
- MACIGNO.** In Italy this term has been applied to a siliceous sandstone sometimes containing calcareous grains, mica, &c.
- MADREPORE.** A genus of corals, but generally applied to all the corals distinguished by superficial star-shaped cavities. There are several fossil species.
- MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE.** An extensive series of beds, the geological position of which is immediately above the Coal Measures; so called, because the limestone, the principal member of the series, contains much of the earth magnesia as a constituent part.