

Shape/Form

Shape / form is the geometric shape, morphology, 2D or 3D structure, habit / crystal habit, surface relief, or surface topography. For example, spherical cells, also called cocci, represent a morphological variety of unicellular organisms and are distinguished from other cellular morphologies, such as rods and filaments. Upon burial and compaction, coccoidal microfossils may undergo deformation to resemble ruptured or deflated spheres (e.g. raisin-like), or may become flattened compressions. Abiotic processes commonly create spherical morphologies, too (i.e. "blueberries" on Mars) and other botryoidal mineral habits.