

A stone is a piece of rock. It is a mass of hard compacted mineral. The word is often used to mean a small piece of rock, weathered to have a smooth exterior.

The word "stone" also refers to natural rock as a material, especially a building material.

Natural stones used as building material include granite, marble and sandstone.

Manufactured, artificial products such as concrete or clay bricks are not stone.

Stone takes a while to heat up, and stays hot for a while. It does not conduct electricity well.

Stone was one of the first materials used to make tools and buildings. It is a very sturdy material. It is less affected by weather than wood or brick. Depending on the type of rock, stone weathers away more or much more slowly. A stone in the river is reshaped by the water and sediment flowing around it.

Stones can be used as primitive

weapon. Person can throw it at enemy

or animal, or use it to make more

damage in hand-to-hand combat.

A stone is larger than a grain of sand, gravel or pebbles. A boulder is a large rock or stone.