

# Oklahoma Rose Rock

The Rose Rock is a natural crystal composed of barite and sand. Barite crystalized out of the water of a shallow inland sea in the Permian period. The reddish color of Rose Rocks found in central Oklahoma is due to iron oxide in the sand. The Rose Rock is the state rock of Oklahoma.

In 1838, after gold was discovered on Cherokee lands in Georgia, the tribe was forced to walk 1,000 miles to what is now Oklahoma. As they made the terrible winter journey, perhaps many remembered the beautiful white rose they had cultivated in Georgia, known as "The Cherokee Rose." When they arrived in Oklahoma after this "Trail of Tears," it is said that the Great Spirit transformed those tears into the shape of a rose, as they fell to the ground, to renew their hopes in a new land.

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