



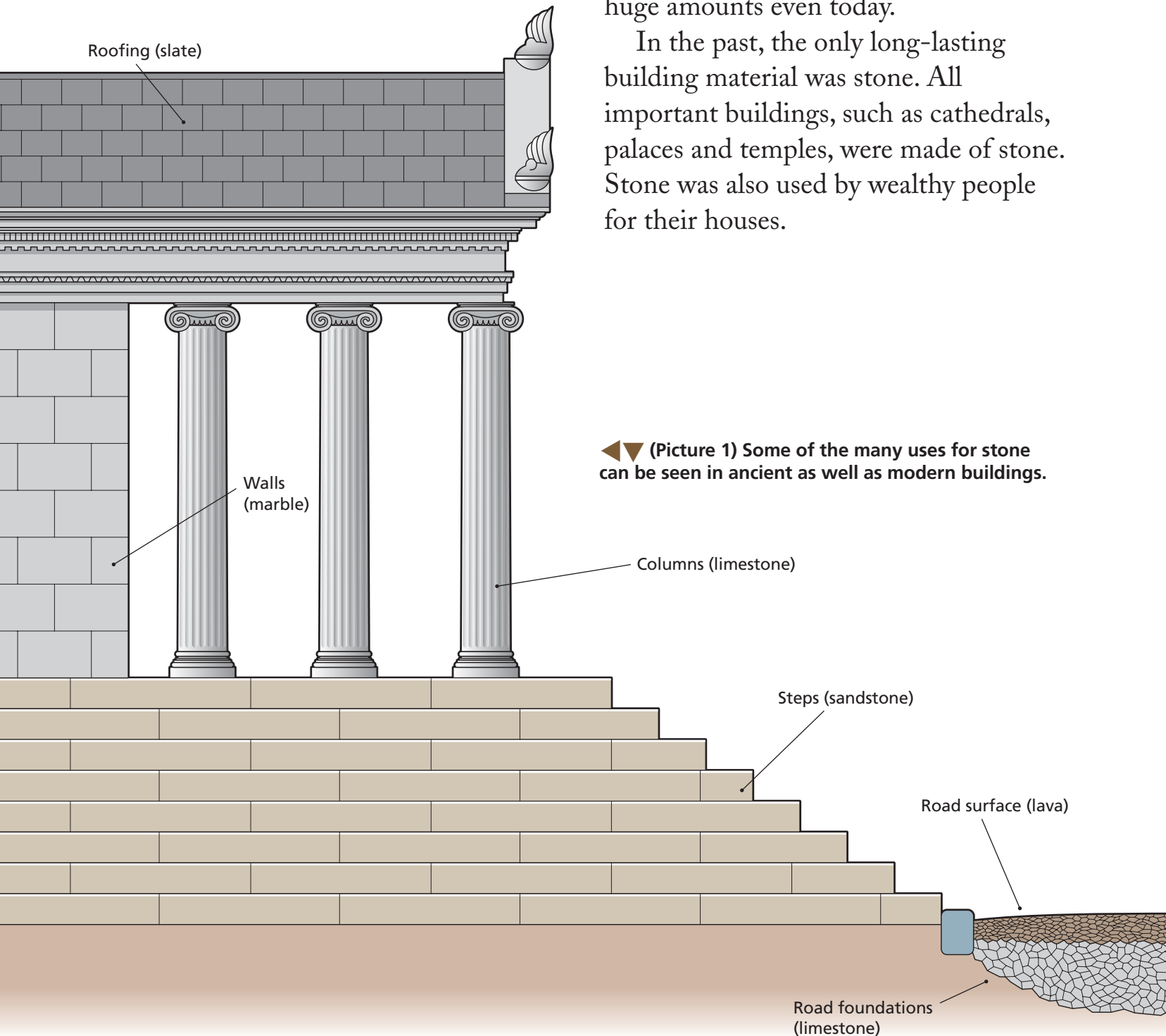
How rocks are used

Hard rocks have many uses. They are used to make all types of buildings, and even to make roads.

Blocks of rock that are cut from a quarry are called **STONE**. People have found hard

stone a very useful material for thousands of years (Picture 1). It is still used in huge amounts even today.

In the past, the only long-lasting building material was stone. All important buildings, such as cathedrals, palaces and temples, were made of stone. Stone was also used by wealthy people for their houses.



Building stone

Some stone, such as **LIMESTONE**, can be cut into large blocks. This makes it especially useful for building (Pictures 2 and 3).

Some stone, such as slate, breaks up into sheets. This can be used as thin slabs to make roofs.



▲ (Picture 2) This building uses limestone blocks for the walls.

Some stone, such as granite and marble, looks very attractive when it is polished. These types of stone are often used for decoration as statues, floors or the outside of buildings.

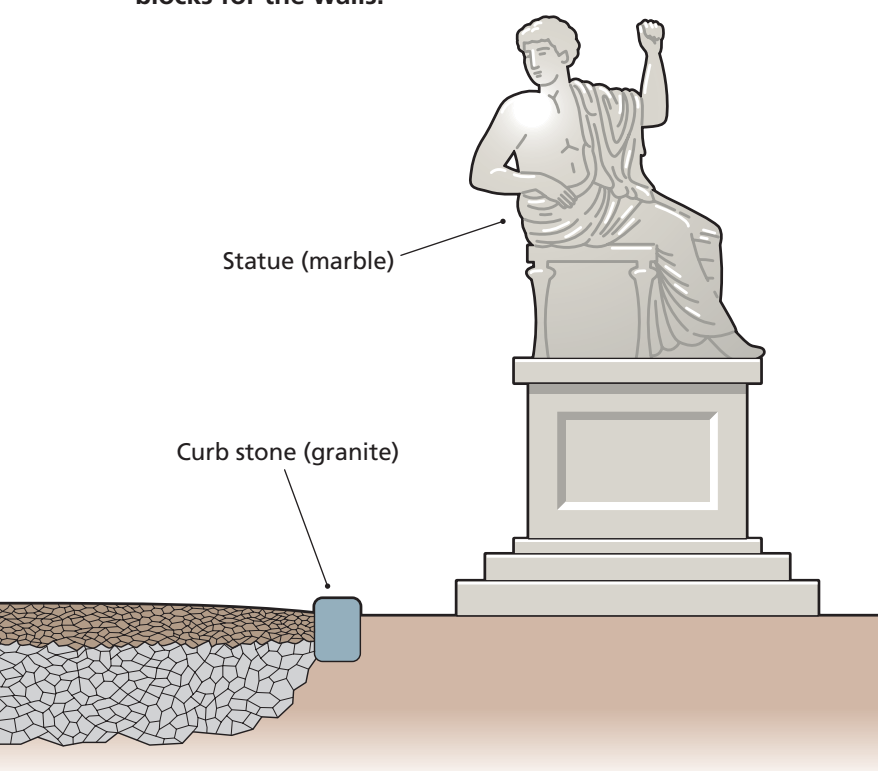
▼ (Picture 3) Any hard stone can be used to make walls. This is limestone. This type of wall is called a dry stone wall because no cement has been used between the blocks.



Road stone

Roads have to take the weight of lorries and be hard wearing. They are mainly made of hard stone.

For this purpose, the stone is quarried using explosives, then it is crushed up. Large pieces are used as foundations for roads. Small pieces are covered in tar and used to make the road surface.



Summary

- Only hard rock is useful for building.
- Rocks that can be cut into shapes are used for building.
- Pieces of hard rock are used for roads.