Dolomite
By John R. Hill

What is dolomite?
Dolomite is both a mineral and a type of carbonate rock. We are focusing here on the rock called dolomite, which consists of at least 90 percent by weight of the compound calcium magnesium carbonate or CaMg(CO₃)₂ as expressed as a chemical formula. Like limestone, dolomite that meets class-A aggregate standards of hardness and durability is a favorite with the aggregates industry.

Very pure forms of dolomite that exceed 95 percent calcium magnesium carbonate are used in the pharmaceutical industry to make products like Milk of Magnesia and by the cosmetics industry for filler.

The mineral dolomite, which makes up most of the rock called dolomite, forms six-sided crystals that have a pinkish pearly luster. The mineral is popular with collectors. The area around Corydon is known throughout the Midwest as a source area for dolomite specimens of unusual beauty.

Dolomite is calcite with magnesium added. It fizzes in warm acid. It is usually pink or white and has curved faces. It is a common mineral and is used for building stones and for making heat-resistant bricks for furnace linings.

An ancient dolomitic reef.

A road crew dumps crushed dolomite onto a local roadway. Concrete will be poured over the crushed dolomite road base.