General Pathways For Color Producing Iron Compounds in Sedimentary Rocks

1. Iron exists in two valence states and switches readily back and forth
   - Fe^{+2} Ferrous (Fe^{+2}) typical of igneous rock forming minerals
   - Fe^{+3} Ferric (Fe^{+3}) typical of hematite and limonite
2. Most iron compounds are colored and form powerful pigments & vivid colors (red, purple, green, and yellow)
3. Ubiquitous - about 5% composition of all surface rocks