

NOTES-IDENTIFYING MINERALS

Identifying Minerals

1. _____

- There are 6 specific properties examined to identify a mineral.....
- Many minerals have a _____ color, but the color _____ is not enough to identify the mineral.

2. _____

- The way a mineral _____ light.
- _____ – Reflects light and looks metallic.
- _____ – Minerals that look earthy, waxy, or glasslike.

3. _____

- The _____ form of the mineral.
- The streak of a mineral is obtained by rubbing it on a streak _____.
- Often the color of the powder will be _____ than the whole mineral.

4. _____

- How _____ the mineral is.
- Measured on the Moh's scale.
- _____ is the hardest mineral – ex. _____
- _____ is the softest mineral – ex. _____

5. _____

- The way a mineral breaks.
- _____ – smooth, flat breaks.
- _____ – Rough, jagged breaks.

6. _____

Review

- Minerals have 6 general crystal shapes.
 - Cubic ex. _____
 - Hexagonal ex. _____
 - Tetragonal ex. _____
 - Orthorhombic ex. _____
 - Monoclinic ex. _____
 - Triclinic ex. _____
- All minerals share the following 4 characteristics:
 - Solid, Inorganic, Naturally Formed, Crystalline Structure.
- There are 6 tests to identify a mineral:
 - Color, Hardness, Breakage, Streak, Shape, Luster.

Moh's Scale of Hardness

Mineral	Hardness	
Diamond	10	
Corundum	9	
Topaz	8	← streak plate
Quartz	7	← knife and steel probe
Orthoclase Feldspar	6	▼ glass slide
Apatite	5	
Fluorite	4	← copper coin
Calcite	3	▲ finger nail
Gypsum (Selenite)	2	
Talc	1	