

Rocks and Minerals (Speedy Study Guide)

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Guides

ROCKS AND MINERALS

Minerals

- Minerals are naturally occurring substances formed by geological processes. They are usually solid and feature a crystal structure as well as specific physical properties and chemical composition.
- Physical properties of minerals include crystal structure, hardness (Mohs scale), luster (how it reflects light) and color, as well as more complicated properties such as streak, fracture, cleavage and density.
- Mohs scale of hardness measures the ability of minerals to scratch each other. This is very soft and is listed as 1, diamond is very hard and is measured as 10.
- A mineral is sometimes made up of just one chemical element but more often it is a compound (mixture) of two or more.
- For example, diamond is made up of just carbon, while fluorite is made up of a compound of calcium and fluorine.
- There are over 4000 different types of minerals.
- Only around 10 of them are commonly found in the Earth's crust.
- Examples of minerals include calcite, gypsum, halite, pyrite, gold, quartz and diamond.
- The precious gems ruby and sapphire are varieties of the mineral corundum.

Rocks

- Rocks and stones are naturally occurring solids made up of minerals.
- The Earth's crust is made up of rock.
- Rocks have been used by humans for millions of years, from early tools and weapons through to various construction materials.
- There are three different types of rocks based on the way they form, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.
- When magma cools and solidifies it forms igneous rock.
- Examples of igneous rocks include granite, basalt, gabbro, obsidian and pumice. More igneous rock facts.
- Sediment deposited over time, often in layers at the bottom of lakes and oceans, forms sedimentary rocks.
- Examples of sedimentary rocks include sandstone, shale, limestone, flint, greywacke and chalk. More sedimentary rock facts.
- Extreme pressure and heat over time forms metamorphic rocks.
- Examples of metamorphic rocks include marble, quartzite, schist, gneiss and slate. More metamorphic rock facts.
- The metamorphic rock marble is formed from the sedimentary rock limestone.
- The metamorphic rock gneiss is formed from the igneous rock basalt.

EXAMPLES OF MINERALS

The Silicates

			
Amethyst	Zirconite	The Mica Group	Muscovite
<p>is a beautiful green variety of microcline feldspar. Its chemical formula is $KAlSi_3O_8$, potassium aluminum silicate.</p>	<p>is a variety of Zircon. It is valued as a gem stone and has the chemical formula $ZrSiO_4$.</p>	<p>is the name given to a group of silicate minerals that have silicon and oxygen as their two major components.</p>	<p>is a member of the mica mineral group. It is more important as a rock-forming mineral than as a collectible specimen.</p>

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Reviews

Undoubtedly, this is the greatest job by any author. It is actually filled with wisdom and knowledge I am quickly could get a pleasure of reading a written book.
(Kade Ankunding)

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Speedy Publishing LLC, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 279 x 216 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.There are literally hundreds of different types of rocks and minerals. A study guide will help you differentiate between the many different types. Avid rock hounds and novice collectors alike will find a study guide helpful for identification of rocks and minerals. Pictures of the many different types will prove very helpful for classifying. A study guide will also present new facts that will be helpful and interesting to learn.



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