Mineral Properties Notes Key

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How can I identify minerals? I can identify minerals by their properties.

How to test mineral properties

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| Property  | Important facts | How to test this property |
| Color | * Easiest property to observe
* Only useful for a few minerals that are always the same color.
 | Look at the mineral and identify the color |
| Luster | * How a mineral reflects light

3 types of luster:1. Metallic (looks like metal)
2. Submetallic (looks like dull metal)
3. Non-Metallic (does not look like metal)
 | Look at the mineral under light and see how it reflects the light |
| Streak | - The color of a minerals powder\* The streak does not change even if the color of the mineral does.Ex. Quartz can be many different colors but its streak is always white. | 1. Hold the mineral firmly and scratch the mineral on the streak plate.
2. Record the color of the minerals powder that is left behind.
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| CleavageorFracture | * Mineral splits evenly along flat surfaces

======================* Mineral breaks apart in a jagged pattern
 | Observe the mineral.Cleavage looks like smooth flat surfaces.========================Fracture looks like ugly rough pieces |
| Hardness | * Mohs’ hardness scale ranks minerals from 1 to 10 in order of hardness (Talc is softest, Diamond is hardest)
* A mineral can scratch any mineral softer than itself
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| Density | - The measure of how much mass is in a given amount of space.- always the same for each mineral | 1. Find the mass on a scale.
2. Find the volume using graduated cylinder.
3. Use the formula below to calculate the density.

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| OtherSpecialProperties | * Fluorescence – glows in the dark
* Magnetic
* Chemical reactions
* Taste
* Smell
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