

Minerals

Minerals are a naturally occurring substance on Earth. They are not man-made. They are formed within the Earth's mantle, on the Earth's crust, or on the surface of the Earth. Strong heat and pressure help to form minerals in the same way that rocks are formed. They can grow, but they are not a living thing. Each kind of mineral has its own properties that help identify it. Each mineral has its own special color, luster, hardness, and streak.

Minerals are not only found outside on the ground, but can be found in objects you use everyday! Toothpaste contains the mineral fluorite. Baby powder contains the softest mineral, talc. Inside electronics you can find parts made out of the minerals copper, gold, and quartz. The pencil you are using today has graphite in it. You even eat the mineral salt when you season your food!

Fill in the blank with the words from the word bank.

minerals crust hardness graphite properties

1. Minerals can be found on Earth's mantle, _____, or surface.
2. Each mineral has its own special color, luster, _____, and streak.
3. The pencil you are using today has _____ in it.
4. _____ are a naturally occurring substance on Earth.
5. Each mineral has its own _____ that help identify it.