

Mineral Clues:

Which mineral is it?

Metallic Minerals:

Pyrite: Hardness of 6-6.5. Rough texture, but sometimes crystallizes in cubes. Pale brass-yellow. Streak is brown to black. Iron Pyrite is also known as “fool’s gold.”

Magnetite: Hardness of 6. Black, rough, and magnetic. Streak is black.

Hematite: Hardness of 5.5-6. Dark red to black. Streak is red. Rough texture.

Galena: Hardness of 2.5. Shiny, silvery, and heavy, with smooth sides. Grey streak.

Graphite: Hardness of 1-2. Dark grey to black. Streak is black. Rough and flaky. Will make your fingers dirty. Used in pencils.

Mohs Scale of Hardness

(softest)**1** Talc

2.5 Fingernail

3.5 copper penny

4 fluorite

5.5 common glass, most knife blades, a steel nail

6.5 porcelain tile streak plate

7 quartz

8 topaz

9 corundum

(hardest)**10** diamond

Non-metallic Minerals:

Garnet: Hardness of 7-7.5. No streak. Usually red, brown, or black. Rough texture, sometimes crystallizes.

Quartz: Hardness of 7. No streak. Milky white or colorless. Rough texture. Used in porcelain. One of the most common minerals in the world.

Potassium Feldspar: Hardness of 6-6.5. Pink, white or grey. Has some smooth sides, mostly rough. Leaves a white streak. Common mineral found in granite.

Flourite: Hardness of 4. Breaks with smooth sides. Could be colorless with yellow, purple, or green. Leaves a white streak. Lets light through.

Azurite: Hardness of 3.5-4. Bright blue to dark blue, leaves a blue streak. Rough texture.

Barite: Hardness of 3. White or multicolored. Leaves a white streak. Feels heavy, rough texture.

Calcite: Hardness of 3. White or colorless, lets light through. Smooth sides. White streak.

Muscovite: Hardness of 2.5-3. Greyish, silvery appearance, see-through. Breaks in smooth flat layers. Leaves a white streak.

Halite: Hardness of 2.5. Colorless, white, or pale red. White streak. Cubic, with smooth sides. Lets light through. Ground up to make salt.

Selenite: Hardness of 2. Colorless or white, leaves a white streak. Flat smooth sides, see-through.

Talc: Hardness of 1. Green, grey, or white, leaves a white streak. Rough texture, feels greasy. Used to make talcum powder.