

# Minerals - Building Blocks of Rocks

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<sup>1</sup> Minerals occur naturally - they are not man-made. They grow, but they do not have life. Each kind of mineral has a special color, crystal shape, luster, hardness, and even its own way of splitting or breaking apart. A geologist - a scientist who studies the Earth and its rocks - will study all those things to determine what type of mineral they have found.



<sup>2</sup> People do not make minerals. They are formed within the Earth's mantle, within the Earth's crust, or on the surface of the Earth. Strong heat and pressure form minerals in much the same way as rocks are formed.

<sup>3</sup> Minerals make up rocks. Some rocks have only one mineral in them. Marble, from which statues are carved, has only one mineral called calcite [CAL-site]. Other rocks are made up of several different minerals.

<sup>4</sup> You do not have to go into a cave or dig in the ground to find minerals. Your home is full of them! Your toothpaste contains a mineral called fluorite. Your bath powder contains talc. Your clock radio contains the minerals copper, gold, quartz, and cassiterite [kuh-SIT-uh-right] - the ore of tin. Your pencils contain graphite. The salt you use to season your food is a mineral!

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<p>1. Which of the following statements about minerals are not true?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Minerals are formed by heat and pressure.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Minerals grow.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Minerals are alive.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Minerals are not man-made.</p>	<p>2. A person who studies the Earth and its rocks is called:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Scientist</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Mineralogist</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Rockologist</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D Geologist</p>
<p>3. Minerals can be identified by their:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A Color</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B Crystal shape</p> <p><input type="radio"/> C Luster</p> <p><input type="radio"/> D All of the above</p>	<p>4. All rocks are made up of one mineral.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> A True</p> <p><input type="radio"/> B False</p>
<p>5. What kinds of common items contain minerals?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>6. Nine minerals were named in this lesson. Name one.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

