

GEOLOGIST'S NOTEBOOK

WHAT EXACTLY ARE MINERALS?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Research and report back to the class. Creatively present the information you have learned. For example, you could create a game, do a dramatization, a news show, PowerPoint® presentation with visuals, design a timeline, or write a story and read it to class.

1. What are minerals?
2. Why are minerals important to people?
3. Where can geologists find minerals?
4. Why is there not an even distribution of minerals found around the world? For example, why is gold in California but not Illinois?
5. How can minerals be separated from the rock of which they are part?
6. How are minerals identified? Be specific.
7. You are a geologist trying to identify two minerals. What should you do if two rocks contain yellow minerals but you know they are different minerals? Be specific.
8. Why did geologists come up with so many ways to identify minerals?
9. What are elements?
10. How do elements make minerals?
11. How many kinds of minerals are there? Provide a few examples.
12. Describe a crystal.
13. How do crystals grow?
14. Give examples of minerals used in everyday life.