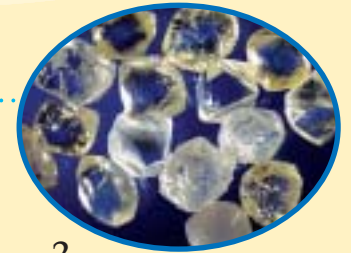


Rocks and Minerals

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Glossary

cementation process by which minerals glue together loose sediments, forming sedimentary rock

chemical rock sedimentary rock made from minerals that were once dissolved in water

clastic rock sedimentary rock made from smaller pieces of other rocks

cleavage splitting of a mineral along smooth surfaces

compaction squeezing together of sediments to form rock

core central part of Earth about 3,486 kilometers (2,164 miles) thick

crust top layer of Earth about 25–90 kilometers (16–56 miles) thick on the continents, about 6 kilometers (4 miles) thick under oceans

crystal mineral that has a shape with flat surfaces and angled sides

crystal structure regular, repeating pattern of atoms in minerals

deposition process by which water, wind, or ice drops sediments in new locations

erosion process by which sediments are carried away by water, wind, ice, or gravity

fossil remains or traces of a living thing that have been preserved in rock

fossil fuel fuel that formed from the remains of once-living things

fracture breaking of a mineral that forms jagged or uneven edges

gemologist person who studies where gemstones come from and how they can be used

gemstone beautiful and valuable mineral used for jewelry

geologist scientist who studies rocks and minerals

hardness resistance of a mineral to being scratched

igneous rock rock formed from melted rock (magma) that cooled

lava melted rock (magma) that reaches Earth's surface

luster how a mineral reflects light from its surface

magma melted rock beneath Earth's surface

mantle layer of Earth between the crust and the core, about 2,885 kilometers (1,790 miles) thick

metallic luster shiny like the polished surface of a metal

metamorphic rock rock that is changed into new rock by heat and pressure

mineral natural, nonliving solid material found in or on Earth; building block of rocks

Mohs scale scale for comparing the hardness of minerals with one another

nonmetallic luster not shiny like the polished surface of a metal

nonrenewable resource useful material found in nature that cannot be replaced easily

ore mineral or rock that contains enough of a valuable substance to make it worth mining

organic rock sedimentary rock made from once-living things

rock natural solid that is usually a mixture of minerals

rock cycle constant forming and breaking down of rock materials

sedimentary rock rock formed from pieces of rocks, shells, or the remains of plants and animals

sediments loose solid particles formed when rock is broken down

streak color of a powdered mineral when it is rubbed across unglazed ceramic tile

weathering breaking down of rocks to form sediments