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