

Word	Definition
Minerals	A naturally occurring inorganic crystalline structure
hardness	A measure of how easily a mineral can be scratched
Mohs scale of hardness	A scale based on the ability of a harder material to scratch a softer material
color	the appearance of the mineral in reflected light or transmitted light for translucent minerals (i.e. what it looks like to the naked eye).
luster	the way a mineral's surface interacts with light and can range from dull to glassy (vitreous).
streak	refers to the color of the powder a mineral leaves after rubbing it on an unglazed porcelain <i>streak plate</i> .
Rock cycle	A continuous process by which rocks can be changed into different kinds of rocks.
Igneous rock	A type of rock formed from magma or lava which has cooled and hardened.
Metamorphic rock	A type of rock that has been changed over time by heat and/or pressure
Sedimentary rock	A type of rock formed from sediment that has become compacted and cemented together.
weathering	Process by which earth materials are broken down by natural forces.
erosion	The movement of weathered material by water, wind, or other forces.
sediments	Small pieces of material that have broken off of rocks.
deposition	Process by which eroded earth materials settle in another place.
cementation	The process by which sediments are glued or combined together to form a rock.
compaction	The process by which sediments are pressed together through pressure.
lava	Molten rock that has been pushed up to the Earth's surface.
magma	Molten rock located beneath the Earth's surface.