

Mineral Identification

ESC 115 Physical Geology

Identifying Common Minerals

The following terms will help with mineral identification. We'll watch a video together, so keep these terms in mind. **Submit this page on Moodle.**

Physical Properties:

Luster:

Streak:

Cleavage/Fracture:

Relative hardness ranked 1–5

finger nail _____

calcite _____

gypsum _____

quartz _____

glass _____

Special ways of distinguishing the following minerals:

calcite:

galena:

halite:

magnetite:

hornblende versus augite:

On the following page are tables to complete for mineral identification. Generally, the process follows these steps:

Luster: metallic or non-metallic?

Hardness: Greater or less than 5.5?

Streak: What color?

Special identifying characteristics: magnetic, tastes salty, heavy, layering, crystal form, cleavage?

Mineral Identification Sheet

Item Number	Luster	Hardness	Mineral Color	Streak	Cleavage/ Fracture	Diagnostic Property	Chemical Elements	Mineral Name
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

Mineral Identification Sheet (continued)

Item Number	Luster	Hardness	Mineral Color	Streak	Cleavage/ Fracture	Diagnostic Property	Chemical Elements	Mineral Name
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
33								