

Skills Worksheet

Directed Reading A**Section: Identifying Minerals****COLOR**

1. What other factor besides air and water can change the color of a mineral?

LUSTER

2. The way a surface reflects light is called _____.
3. What are the three types of mineral luster?

STREAK

4. The color of a mineral in powdered form is called the mineral's _____.
5. Why is using a mineral's streak more reliable than using color to identify a mineral?

CLEAVAGE AND FRACTURE

6. Name two minerals with cleavage, a tendency to break along smooth, flat surfaces.
7. The tendency of some minerals to break unevenly along curved or irregular surfaces is called _____.

Directed Reading A *continued*

HARDNESS

- _____ 8. A mineral's resistance to being scratched is called
- a. weight.
 - b. streak.
 - c. luster.
 - d. hardness.
9. What do scientists use to determine the hardness of minerals?

10. What is the softest mineral on the Mohs scale?

DENSITY

11. The ratio of the mass of a substance to the volume of the substance is its

_____.

12. What substance is the usual reference point for the density of other substances?

13. The ratio of an object's density to the density of water is called the object's

_____.

SPECIAL PROPERTIES

14. The special property of calcite and fluorite that causes them to glow under ultraviolet light is called _____.
15. A Geiger counter can be used to detect _____ in a mineral.
16. A special property of pyrrhotite is that it is a natural _____ that attracts iron.