

atom	the basic component of matter consisting of protons, neutrons, and electrons.
cleavage	the physical property of how a mineral breaks or fractures.
conductivity	the measure of a material's ability to transfer energy, such as thermal or electrical energy.
crystal	a solid with a highly uniform atomic structure.
crystal structure	formed by the geometric pattern created by the arrangement of atoms or molecules of a mineral.
crystallization	the formation and growth of minerals from a liquid or gas.
density	a physical property of matter measured by the ratio of its mass to its volume.
evaporate	a change of state from liquid to gas, caused by the gain of heat energy in the liquid.
gemstone	a crystalline mineral that can be beautiful, rare, durable, and is sometimes worn as jewelry after being cut and polished.
geology	the study of Earth and its history as recorded in rocks and minerals.
hardness	the physical property of a mineral's ability to resist scratching.
hot spot	a localized region of magma close to Earth's crust.
lava	molten rock that erupts at Earth's surface.
luster	the physical property of a mineral that describes the way light reflects off its surface.
magma	molten rock beneath Earth's surface.
metamorphism	structural or chemical change to minerals within a rock caused by heat, pressure, or the replacement of elements by hot fluids.
mineral	a naturally occurring inorganic solid with a definite chemical composition; it can be identified by its physical and chemical properties and its crystal structure.
molecule	a particle consisting of two or more chemically combined atoms.
molten rock	a liquid mixture of dissolved pieces of rock, gases, and minerals.
ore	rock that contains useful minerals that can be mined and sold at a profit.
pegmatite	a type of igneous rock that contains large mineral crystals.
physical property	a characteristic of a substance that can be observed by its interaction with matter and energy without being changed chemically.
precipitation	a chemical reaction in which solids form and separate from a solution.
silicate	a common group of minerals that contain silicon and oxygen molecules.
solution	a homogeneous mixture of more than one substance.
stalactite	a mineral deposit shaped like an icicle that hangs downwards from a roof or wall of a cave.
stalagmite	a mineral deposit, usually cone shaped, rising upwards from a cave floor.
streak	the color a mineral leaves behind when it is rubbed against a hard surface or broken down into a powder.