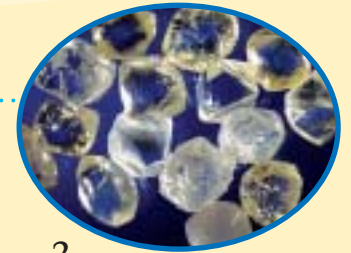


# Rocks and Minerals

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## Glossary

**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