

Mineral Test

A) Look for color. Some minerals are light in color, others are dark. They may be white, yellow, pink, red, blue, green, gray, or even black. Color is not always the best way to identify a mineral. Many minerals have extra chemicals in them that give them a different color than expected. What colors do you see? _____

B) Check for texture, or feel. Minerals may be rough, like sand, others may be smooth or chalky. Run your fingers on the rock. What does it feel like? _____

C) Look for luster, or shininess. Some minerals shine brightly, like metal. Others may look dull or glassy. Still others may have a pearly luster, like the inside of a seashell. Is your dull or shiny? What can you compare it to? _____

D) Look for how the mineral breaks apart. Hold your rock over a piece of white paper. Do pieces of the rock crumble when you rub it? _____

E) Look for streak. Many times a mineral leaves a streak that is a different color than it appears to be. Scratch a piece of porcelain with the mineral. What color did it leave on the plate? _____

F) Do you think your rock is really a mineral? _____ Why? _____