

Magnificent Minerals



quartz

Minerals are solid substances found in Earth. All rocks, including most fossils, are made of minerals. Different minerals have different characteristics. Scientists classify minerals based on their shape, color, and hardness.

Talc is a very soft mineral. It can be white, greenish, or gray. Talc can be ground to make talcum powder, which is used in makeup and baby powder.

Halite is a soft mineral. It is usually white, but it can also be other colors. Halite is also called rock salt. It contains the same chemicals as table salt.

Fluorite is a medium-hard mineral. It can be many different colors. Fluorite contains fluorine, a chemical that is used in toothpaste.

Quartz is a hard mineral. It is the most common mineral on Earth and can be found in many colors. It is used to make glass and electronics.

Sulfur is a soft mineral. It is yellow in color. When sulfur is mixed with water, it smells unpleasant. Sulfur is used to make rubber and gunpowder.

Malachite is a medium-hard mineral. It is always green and sometimes has stripes. It can be used to make jewelry.

Azurite is a medium-hard mineral. Azurite is deep blue and is used in jewelry. It can also be used to make dye for fabric and paint.

Diamond is the hardest mineral. Diamonds can be colorless or colored. They are used in jewelry, and they can also be used in hard tools such as drills and saws.