

Data Table

Fossils	Characteristics
Minerals	Characteristics
Rocks	Characteristics

Post-Lab Questions *(Use a separate sheet of paper to answer the following questions.)*

1. What is the difference between a rock and a mineral?
2. What are the three types of rocks? How is each formed?
3. How are minerals classified?
4. What are the six types of crystal structures found in minerals? Research and list a mineral example for each type of crystal structure.
5. What is a gemstone?
6. List two types of fossils and describe how each is formed.

Specimen Identification Key

Fossils	Description
Bivalve	Shell-like appearance with growth rings visible
Brachiopod	Ribbed shell, small
Crinoid stalk	Cylinder shaped, ribbed
Dinosaur bone	Resembles dried meat, porous
Gastropod	Looks like snail shell
Horn coral	Skinny, finger-like appearance
Petrified wood	Grainy, wood-like appearance
Shark's tooth	Tooth—may have sharp, serrated edges
Trilobite	Black, flat fossil, with ribbed thorax section

Minerals	Description
Pyrite	Gold/brassy looking, fool's gold
Gypsum	White or pink, soft, used to make plaster of paris
Hematite	Red to brown in color, red color remains on hands when touched
Magnetite	Black, heavy, magnetic iron ore
Quartz	Very hard, white to pink in color
Sulfur	Yellow with strong smell
Limonite	Brown in color, iron mineral
Microcline	Pink to blue/green in color
Olivine	Olive green in color, crystals in masses

Rocks	Description
Obsidian	Black in color, glassy appearance, igneous rock
Pumice	Very light, floats on water, usually gray in color, igneous rock
Gabbro	Brown to black, coarse grained, igneous rock
Granite	Gray to white, medium grained, igneous rock
Coal	Jet black, soft and brittle
Shale	Fine-grained, clay-like, black to gray in color
Gneiss	Black and white speckled, metamorphic rock
Sandstone	Red, sedimentary rock, grains cemented together
Scoria	Igneous rock, reddish brown to dark gray, many holes
Conglomerate	Sedimentary rock, quartz pebbles cemented together

Fossil Sorting Sheet

Bivalve	Brachiopod
Crinoid stalk	Dinosaur bone
Gastropod	Horn coral
Petrified wood	Shark's tooth
Trilobite	

Mineral Sorting Sheet

Pyrite	Gypsum
Hematite	Magnetite
Quartz	Sulfur
Limonite	Microcline
Olivine	

Rock Sorting Sheet

Obsidian	Pumice
Gabbro	Granite
Coal	Shale
Gneiss	Sandstone
Scoria	Conglomerate