**A mineral is**

* Naturally occurring
* Inorganic
* Definite chemical composition & crystalline structure
* Solid

**All physical properties of minerals come from the “internal arrangement of atoms”**

**Mineral Identification Tests**

**The Color Test-** easiest test to do but not always reliable

**The Streak Test**

* The color of the powdered mineral.
* Performed by rubbing the unknown mineral on an unglazed tile.

**The Luster Test**

* the way a mineral shines or doesn't shine
* the only way to really learn the different lusters is to see them for yourself.

**Types of Luster**

* **Metallic**- looks like shiny metal (not always shiny)
* **Non-metallic**- all the other ways that a mineral can shine
  + **Glassy/vitreous**- shines like a piece of broken glass (most common non-metallic)
  + **Dull/earthy**- no shine at all
  + Resinous/waxy- looks like a piece of plastic or dried glue
  + **Pearly**- looks oily it may have a slight rainbow like an oil slick on water. Also looks like the inside of some clam shells
  + **Adamantine**- brilliant, sparkling shine like a diamond

**Hardness**- a minerals resistance to scratching. This should not be confused with brittleness. A diamond is very hard and will scratch a hammer but a hammer will smash a diamond. Likewise, talc, one of the softest minerals, is not squishy. It will still put a serious hurting on you if you get hit in the head with it.

**Moh’s Scale of Hardness**

1. Talc (Softest)
2. Gypsum
3. Calcite
4. Fluorite
5. Apatite
6. Feldspar
7. Quartz
8. Topaz
9. Corundum
10. Diamond (Hardest)