

Student Investigation

Activity for students



Pick one of the minerals from this list and circle it. Find the mineral in the Earth & Planetary Sciences Gallery and look closely at ALL the different pieces of that mineral. Write or draw your observations. Be careful! Some samples show one mineral growing on top of another mineral.

Hint: The numbers next to the name of the mineral will tell you which case to look in.

INDIVIDUAL MINERALS

Calcite (Case 37, 38)

Copper (Case 4)

Fluorite (Case 32, 33)

Galena (Case 9)

Gypsum (Case 50)

Halite (Case 34)

Hematite (Case 23)

Magnetite (Case 25)

Pyrite (Case 11)

Quartz (Case 77, 78)

GROUPS OF MINERALS

Mica (Case 67, 68) Name for a group of minerals including phlogopite, biotite, and muscovite.

Feldspar (Case 76) Name for a group of minerals including albite, orthoclase and microcline.

1. What colors does your mineral come in?

2. Look at all the pieces of your mineral. Does it grow in a special shape? Describe the shape of your mineral.

3. What is one more interesting thing about your mineral?