



Name: _____ #: _____

Date: _____ Section: _____ HR: _____

Identifying Minerals Lab

Minerals Lab

Hardness scale: If the mineral can be scratched by your **fingernail**, rate it a **2**, unless it is talc.

If the mineral cannot be scratched by a fingernail, but a **penny scratches it**, rate this mineral **3**.

If the mineral cannot be scratched by a penny, but the **steel rod scratches it**, rate the mineral a 4 or 5.

If the mineral **cannot be scratched by the steel rod**, rate the mineral a 7,8 or 9.

Color: Record the **colors** that you see.

Streak: Scratch the mineral on the tile and record the streak color. If the mineral is light-colored like the tile, still scrape the mineral on the tile, then rub your finger over the tile to check for the powder or streak color left on your finger.

Luster: Luster vocabulary: glassy, dull, waxy, pearly, metallic, glassy and silky.

Cleavage: When a mineral splits **along flat surfaces** these minerals have cleavage, since when broken they separate into **flat sheets**. Other minerals, because of their crystal structure when broken will produce pieces with flat sides and square corners. These broken pieces look like **mini crystals**. **Examine your mineral carefully with a magnifying glass and choose whether the mineral has cleavage or fracture when broken.**

Fracture: Some minerals when broken will crumble, fracture unevenly, have jagged edges or rough surfaces.

Density: Each mineral has density. Hold the mineral in the palm of your hand and if the mineral feels heavy, write **high density**. If the mineral feels extremely light, write **low density**. If the mineral feels neither quite heavy or light, write **medium density**.

Special Properties: Some minerals have **special properties**, while others do not. Some of the special properties you may observe are minerals with:

- **interesting color**
- **stunning crystals**
- **magnetized quality**
- **unique smell**
- **streak color very different from the color of mineral**
- **unusually soft mineral**

