

# Mohs Hardness Scale

Name \_\_\_\_\_

One of the most useful properties used for identification of a mineral is its hardness. The Mohs hardness scale measures a mineral's hardness by means of a simple scratch test.

Name the mineral that belongs in each step of the Mohs Hardness Scale chart.

Mohs Hardness Scale		
Hardness	Mineral	Common Tests
1		Fingernail will scratch it.
2		
3		Fingernail will not scratch it; a copper penny will.
4		Knife blade or window glass will scratch it.
5		
6		Will scratch a steel knife or window glass.
7		
8		
9		
10		Will scratch all common materials.

## WORD BANK

Talc  
Calcite  
Apatite

diamond  
Topaz  
Feldspar/Orthoclase

Gypsum  
Fluorite

Corundum  
Quartz

Nc

On  
ch

Enc  
unl

H

THI

W  
wi

W  
wi

A  
sc

Fir

Kr

gl  
Earl

# Name That Mineral

Name \_\_\_\_\_

One can identify many minerals by carefully observing their physical characteristics. **Some** of these characteristics are:

Hardness — This is determined with a scratch test.

Color — Color depends on the substances that make up the crystals. Varies greatly.

Luster — This refers to how light reflects off the mineral.

Enough information has been given to you here to help you find the unknown minerals and fill in the chart.

Hardness Scale		
Hardness	Mineral	Common Tests
1	Talc	Fingernail will scratch it.
2	Gypsum/ Kaolinite	
3	Mica/ Calcite	A copper penny will scratch it.
4	Fluorite	Knife blade or window glass will scratch it.
5	Apatite/ Hornblende	
6	Feldspar	Will scratch a steel knife or window glass.
7	Quartz	
8	Topaz	
9	Corundum	Will scratch all common materials.
10	Diamond	

Color	Mineral
White:	Quartz, Feldspar, Calcite, Kaolinite, Talc
Yellow:	Quartz, Kaolinite
Black:	Hornblende, Mica
Gray:	Feldspar, Gypsum
Colorless:	Quartz, Calcite, Gypsum

Luster	Mineral
Glassy:	Quartz, Feldspar, Hornblende
Pearly:	Mica, Gypsum, Talc
Dull:	Kaolinite

## THE UNKNOWN MINERALS —

Hardness	Color	Luster	Mineral
Will scratch a steel knife or window glass.	yellow	glassy	
Will scratch a steel knife or window glass.	gray	glassy	
A copper penny will scratch it.	black	pearly	
Fingernail will scratch it.	white	pearly	
Knife blade or window glass will scratch it.	black	glassy	