

Learning Target: I can ask questions and analyze data to classify rocks by their physical attributes (color, texture, luster, and hardness) using simple tests.

Classifying Rocks Lab

Part 1: Match the words to their correct definition.

Luster	Texture	Hardness	Color	Metallic	Nonmetallic	Mohs scale
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- _____ How atoms in minerals absorb or reflect different types of visible light.
- _____ To shine or reflect light.
- _____ A scale that measures the hardness of a rock from 1 to 10 with 1 being the softest and 10 being the hardest.
- _____ A type of rock that shines or reflects light.
- _____ A type of rock that does not shine or reflect light.
- _____ The hardness of minerals by their ability to scratch softer minerals. This quality is based on the Mohs hardness scale.
- _____ The size, shape, and order of the mineral/rock grains and crystals; can be rough or smooth.

Instructions: Today you will be classifying rocks based upon 4 physical characteristics (color, texture, luster, and hardness).

- You will be put into groups of 2.**
- Your teacher will give your group 3 rocks.**
- You will observe each rock and write the physical characteristic that best meets their description.**

Rock / Picture	Color – Light, Dark, or in between	Texture – Coarse/rough or Smooth	Luster – Shiny surface or no shiny surface	Hardness – Use the Mohs Hardness scale on the next page
<i>Rock 1</i>				
<i>Rock 2</i>				
<i>Rock 3</i>				

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Post Lab Questions:

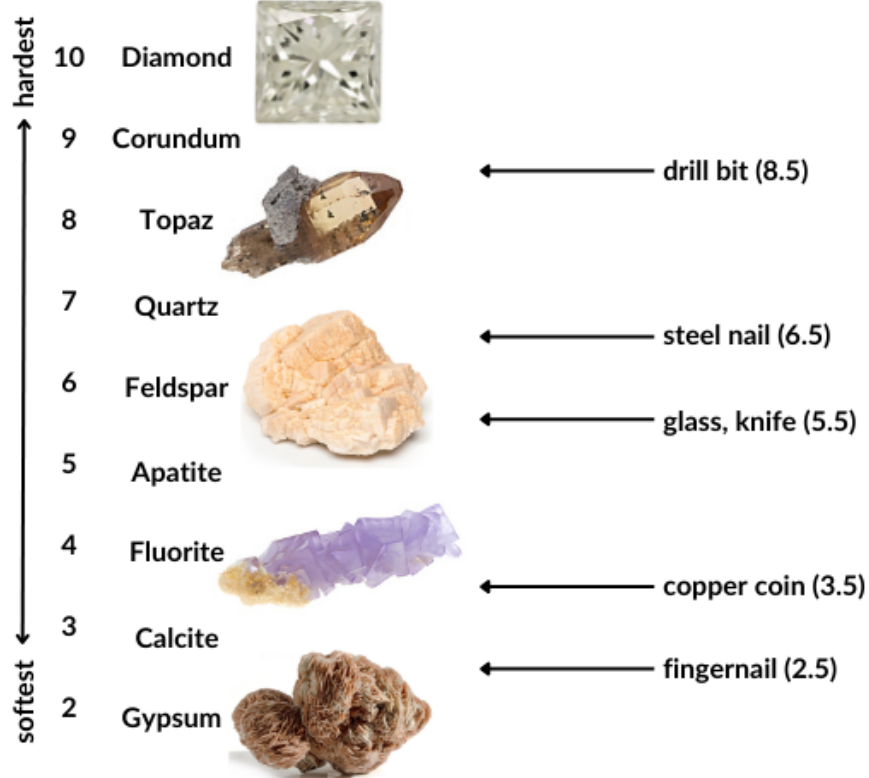
1. Which rock had the most luster? _____ How could you tell? _____

2. Which rock had the coarsest texture? _____ How could you tell? _____

3. Which rock was the hardest? _____ How could you tell? _____

Mohs Hardness Scale

The Mohs scale rates the hardness of minerals by their ability to scratch softer minerals.



4. According to the Mohs hardness scale, which mineral is the hardest? _____ How can you tell? _____
5. According to the Mohs hardness scale, which mineral is the softest? _____ How can you tell? _____