



ROCKS & MINERALS



By: Adrienne Steele

Background

Geologist – a scientist who studies rocks and minerals.

Mineral – a naturally occurring, solid, nonliving element or compound having a definite chemical composition and unique physical properties. Louisiana examples include quartz and sulfur.

Rock - an aggregate of one or more minerals. Sandstone and ironstone are common rocks of Louisiana.

Classes of rock:

Igneous – rocks that form when magma cools and hardens (underground or on surface). ex: obsidian, basalt, granite, pumice

Sedimentary - layered rocks that are compacted and cemented together under pressure. ex: sandstone, shale, limestone

Metamorphic - igneous and sedimentary rock whose mineral composition and grain size have changed due to intense heat and pressure deep w/in Earth's surface. ex: slate, marble

What do we use that comes from rocks and minerals?

- quartz crystals - computers, watches, glass
- gold, silver, copper - wiring, jewelry, currency
- sulfur - drugs
- graphite – pencils
- halite - salt

What is mined from LA?

- lignite (coal)
- halite (salt)
- natural gas and petroleum
- clay
- agate (gemstone)

Louisiana GLE's	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	8 th
Science As Inquiry	1-3, 5, 7-9, 11	1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15	1-4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 15	1-4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 17	1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 29	1, 4, 6, 7, 13, 29
Earth Science		36	45, 50	62	31	16-18

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LSU-HHMI Scope-On-A-Rope Program, 225-578-3080, soar@lsu.edu, www.scopeonarope.lsu.edu

Rock and Mineral Properties

Examine five different rocks and minerals. Give each rock a number. Then fill out the chart below using your observations of these rocks. Make sure your descriptions are detailed enough for someone else to identify the rocks using your chart. **Use the Scope-On-A-Rope with the 30X lens to view each rock/mineral sample up close!**

#	Color	Shape	Texture	Luster	Grain size
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

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