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ROCKS AND MINERALS FACTS



A rock is a naturally occurring solid. It is made of minerals (which are crystalline), or other mineral-like substances. The minerals in the rocks vary, making different kinds of rock.

Facts

- All rocks are made of two or more minerals, but minerals are not made of rocks. A mineral is the same all the way through.
- There are about 3,000 known minerals on Earth.
- Quartz is one of the most common minerals found on Earth, and basalt is the most common rock.
- Diamond is the hardest natural substance on Earth, and a diamond is used to cut another diamond.
- Marble forms from metamorphosed carbonate rock, usually limestone.
- Breccia is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together.
- The biggest pure-gold nugget was found in Australia in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds. Gold is extremely soft and is one of the most valuable minerals.
- Geodes are plain balls of igneous or sedimentary rock on the outside, but contain beautiful crystals on the inside.
- Feldspar is a term used for a very large group of minerals, which are extremely abundant on Earth. Feldspars make up more than half of the Earth's crust.
- The first recorded use of turquoise dates back to 5,000 BC in Mesopotamia, where people used gemstones to make beads. Lapis lazuli, treasured for its rich blue color, was often used in jewelry. The ancient Egyptians used powdered lapis lazuli as eye shadow. In ancient India and China, jade, which is extremely strong, was used for making things like fish hooks, knives, hammers, axes, ornaments, statues and jewelry.

Mineral Word Search

There are about 3,000 minerals on the planet. Find the following minerals in the mix of letters below.

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Mineral Word Search

ANSWER KEY

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Tell the Difference

Can you answer the following questions about rocks and minerals concisely?

What is the difference between...



... rocks and minerals?

... quartz and basalt?



... geodes and feldspar?



... turquoise and lapis lazuli?



... marble and limestone?



Match the Mineral

Based on what you know about minerals, can you match the description of the mineral to its picture below?

Rock crystal quartz can be clear or white.

Lapis lazuli has a rich blue color.

Rose quartz is pinkish in color.

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz.

Pyrite is called fool's gold because it looks similar to gold.

Opal can flash a variety of vibrant colors.





N I a ma a :		
Name:		

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Name:		
Name		

Rock and Mineral Formation

Just how rocks and minerals take time to form, form six names of rocks and minerals from the mix of letters below.

VBGQURMOL ECCDZIATS



Rock and Mineral Formation

ANSWER KEY

Just how rocks and minerals take time to form, form six names of rocks and minerals from the mix of letters below.

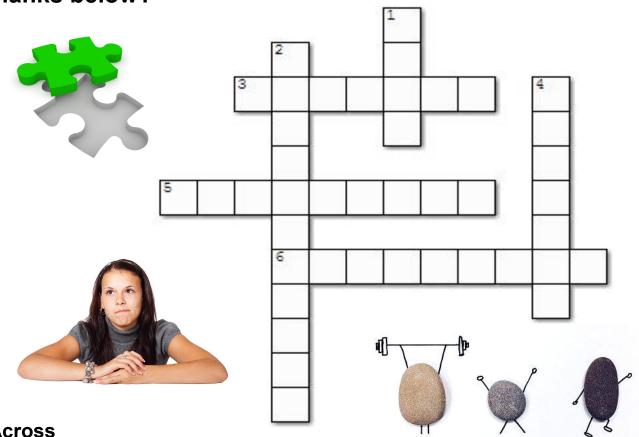
VBGQURMOL ECCDZIATS



Name:				
		_	I _	

Rock and Mineral Crossword Puzzle

Can you complete the crossword puzzle by filling in the blanks below?



Across

- **3.** is a rock composed of generally large, sharp fragments cemented together.
- 5. The biggest pure-gold nugget was found in _____ in 1869 and weighed 156 pounds.
- **6.** Marble usually forms from .

Down

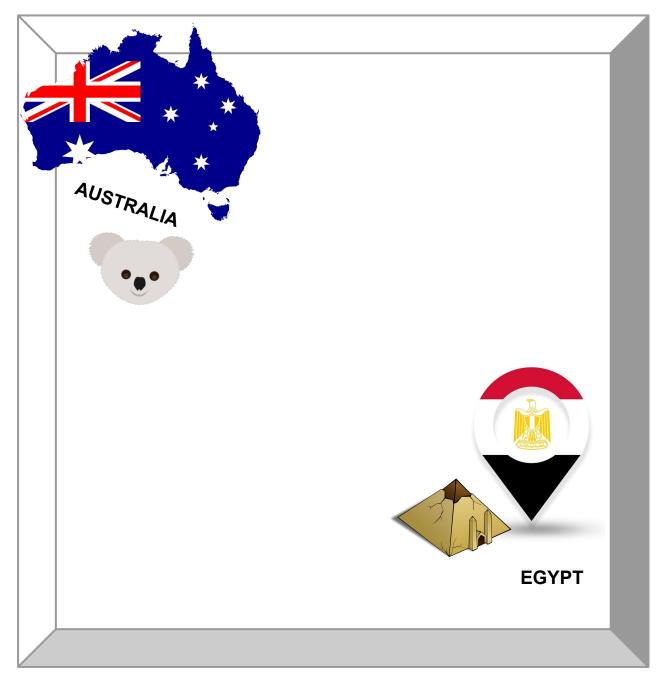
- **1.** A _____ is a naturally occurring solid.
- 2. Minerals have a definite _____ structure.
- **4.** is the hardest natural substance on Earth.

Name:											
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4. is the hardest natural substance on Earth.											

Name:

Mineral Map

The following countries are noted for certain minerals found there. Can you name what those minerals are and how they're related to the country?



Birthstones

Birthstones are minerals that represent our birthdate. Each month has it's own birthstone. Can you find out what they are? Write their names below!



Birthstones

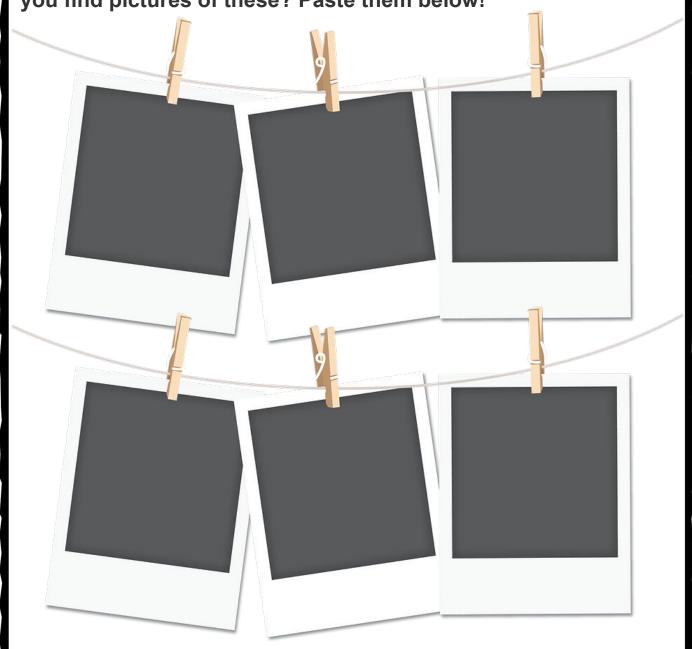
ANSWER KEY

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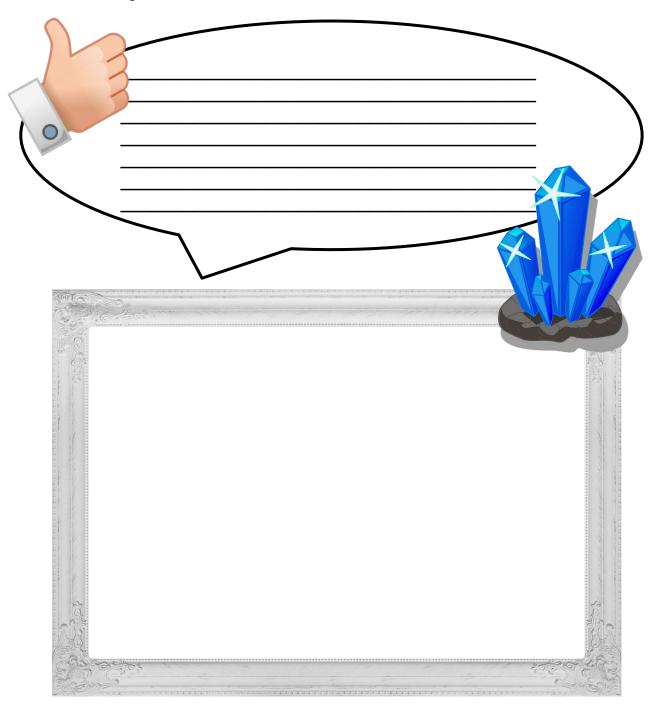
Jade Gallery

Throughout history, jade has been used to make fish hooks, knives, hammers, axes, ornaments, statues and jewelry. Can you find pictures of these? Paste them below!



My Favorite Mineral

If you can choose one mineral that is your favorite, what would it be and why? Draw the mineral below too.



Name:	
Poetry Rocks	
It's time to write an informative and creative poem about rocks!	
	3

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Thank you

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