

UNIT 5: THE SOLID EARTH**LOOKING INTO MINERALS**

Dear language assistant,

This class is about minerals and it has two different parts. First, you will explain some properties of minerals and some vocabulary, then the pupils will handle some real specimens and will complete the chart below (at the laboratory).

1. Colour. You can remember the meaning of some colours pointing some minerals in a picture. Perhaps you can show the use of -ish: yellowish, reddish... and some ways to add an adjective to a colour (pale, dark, light, dirty-white, silver-coloured...).
2. Shiny or dull (luster): what the surface looks like in the light. You can show the difference between shiny and dull minerals. Besides, you can distinguish metallic lustre (brillo metálico) from glassy luster (brillo vítreo)
3. Shape: Is it a geometric shape or irregular shape?
4. Hardness: what it can scratch and what scratches it. Please, show the meaning of "scratch" and distinguish it from hitting. We will use three kinds of hardness: soft minerals if you can scratch them with your fingernail, hard minerals if they scratch an iron hammer. Normal minerals are those you can't scratch using fingernail and they don't scratch a hammer.
5. Density or specific gravity indicates how heavy it is. The pupils have to remember how they got minerals density last October. They weighted the mineral, then they put it into a test tube to know its volume and finally they divided mass and volume. Today we are not doing that. We are only going to recognize very heavy minerals holding them in our hands. So, in the last column the pupils will write "heavy" or "normal".

MINERAL	COLOUR	SHINY/DULL	SHAPE	HARDNESS	DENSITY
Pirita					
Aragonito					
Cuarzo					
Calcita					
Yeso					
Magnetita					
Galena					

Thank you