

ROCK HOUND

Description:

Students will prepare charts, identify various rocks and minerals and describe their characteristics.

Number of Participants: 2

Approximate Time: 20 minutes

The Competition:

1. Contestants will be allowed 20 minutes to identify as many rocks and minerals as possible from a selected group to include such rocks as but not necessarily limited to:

ROCKS:	basalt	bituminous coal	conglomerate	gneiss
	granite	limestone (fossil)	marble	obsidian
	pumice	quartzite	sandstone	schist (garnet)
	scoria	shale	slate	
MINERALS:	calcite	copper	feldspar (pink)	fluorite
	galena	graphite	gypsum- satin-spar	halite
	hematite	mica-biotite	pyrite	kaolinite
	quartz (chert)	quartz (crystal)	talc	

2. Contestants will also be asked questions about the rocks or minerals, such as their color, density (relative heaviness per volume), relative hardness, reaction to vinegar, shape, texture, etc.
3. Contestants should bring their completed charts with them to the tournament. The charts may be used in the identification process and to aid in answering any questions. Copies of these charts should be submitted with the answer sheets at the end of the twenty-minute period.

Scoring:

Each rock or mineral identified and each question answered correctly will count one (1) point. The contestant with the highest total score will be the winner. In case of ties, contestants with the most complete and accurate charts will be the winners.

MY ROCK CHART

ROCK	COLOR	STREAK	LAYERS	TEXTURE	SHINY	HARDNESS	OTHER
				rough or smooth		or dull	
A							
B							
C							
D							
E							

*RELATIVE HARDNESS (MOH'S SCALE)

<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>WHAT IT WILL DO</u>	<u>RATING</u>
TALC	most everything scratches it	1
GYPSUM	a fingernail will scratch it	2
CALCITE	a copper penny will scratch it	3
FLOURITE	a steel knife will scratch it	4
APATITE	a knife scratches it if you press hard	5
FELDSPAR	will scratch a knife blade	6
QUARTZ	will scratch glass (and all previous)	7
TOPAZ	will scratch quartz (and all previous)	8
CORUNDUM	will scratch all except a diamond	9
DIAMOND	will scratch everything	10

