

Minerals are either elements or compounds with a crystalline structure that make up rocks or are dissolved in water. They have many properties, including streak, color, luster, hardness, and structure



Key vocabulary

mineral

A substance found in nature that is not an animal or a plant. Gold, salt, and copper are all minerals.

element

A substance that cannot be split into a simpler substance.

magma

Melted rock found beneath the Earth's surface. Magma flows as lava out of volcanoes and becomes igneous rock when it cools.

Related articles



The Rock Cycle

You might think rocks never change, but that is not true. Like water and nitrogen, rocks have their own cycle, and it is all about change



Igneous Rocks

Can you imagine melting a rock? It takes a lot of heat, but the earth has plenty!



Metamorphic Rocks

Take a rock, add a whole bunch of heat and pressure, and presto! You have a new kind of rock: a metamorphic rock.



Sedimentary Rocks

The Earth has layers, and so do some of its rocks! Sedimentary rocks are the product of a lot of pressure, and they even tell a lot about the Earth's history.



Soil

You plant flowers in it. Farmers grow our food in it. It is a black and brown feast of minerals for plants. That is right. It is time to talk about soil!