

## CAN I IDENTIFY MINERALS BY THEIR CHARACTERISTIC PROPERTIES?

**Objective:** I can identify specific minerals by evaluating their physical characteristics through a variety of tests.

### Moh's Hardness Test:

If your mineral can be...	It has a hardness number of...
rubbed off on the fingers	1
Scratched with a fingernail	2
Scratched with a penny	3
Scratched easily with a butter knife	4
Scratched with a butter knife with effort	5
Scratched with a nail	6
Scratched with a streak plate	7
Too hard to be scratched with any of these	8-10

### Luster: how the mineral reflects light

- Dull - no shine, a plain looking surface
- Waxy or oily - a dull shine, like a wax candle
- Metallic - bright and shiny like a smooth metal surface
- Glassy - bright, transparent shine, can be like glass
- Earthy - having the look of clay or soil
- Pearly - like a pearl

**Streak color:** Streak is determined by scratching the mineral on the streak plate. Many streaks are white and may not be very useful for identification. However, some minerals have specific streak colors that are very useful identifying characteristics.

Sample #	Streak	Luster	Hardness Estimate
1			
2			
3			
4			

