

CHAPTER 3:  
MINERALS

**LUSTER**

"HOW A MINERAL REFLECTS LIGHT"

→ METALLIC LUSTER

or

→ NON-METALLIC LUSTER

EX: Waxy

EX: Vitreous (Glassy)

EX: Silky

EX: Pearly

EX: Earthy

EX: Dull

EX: Resinous (Plastic-Like)

EX: Greasy

EX: Chalky

EX: Adamantine (Shines and Sparkles Like a Diamond)

NOTE: "SHINY" AND "CLEAR" ARE **NOT** TYPES OF LUSTER!

CHAPTER 3:  
MINERALS

**MINERAL IDENTIFICATION TESTS**

a. Hardness

- **RATE** mineral from 1-10.
- Refer to the Hardness Scale on page 69 in the textbook.
- fingernail (2.5) penny (3.0) nail (4.5) glass (5.5) streak plate (7.0)

b. Luster

- Determine if the mineral is **METALLIC** or **NON-METALLIC**.
- Use a second term if the mineral is non-metallic.

c. Streak Test

- Use the streak plate to determine the color of the mineral's **POWDER**.

d. Break Pattern

- Determine if the mineral has **CLEAVAGE** or **FRACTURE**.

e. Crystal System

- Determine the shape of the mineral's crystals.
- Choose from **CUBIC**, **HEXAGONAL**, **MONOCLINC**, etc...
- Refer to the pictures on page 64 in the textbook.

f. Optical

- Determine how you can (or can't) see through the mineral.
- Choose from **OPAQUE**, **TRANSPARENT**, **TRANSLUCENT**, **FIBER OPTIC**, **DOUBLE REFRACTION**, or **PRISM**.

g. Density

- Determine if the mineral is **LIGHT**, **MEDIUM**, or **HEAVY**.

h. Other

- Determine if the mineral is **MAGNETIC**, **FIZZES IN ACID**, **TASTES SALTY**, or has any other unusual properties not yet mentioned.