

# Mineral Identification

ESC 115 Physical Geology

## Identifying Common Minerals

The following terms will help with mineral identification. We'll watch a video together, so keep these terms in mind.

**Luster:**

**Streak:**

**Cleavage/Fracture:**

**Moh's hardness scale value of**

**fingernail:**

**copper penny:**

**pocketknife or nail:**

**glass:**

**Special ways of distinguishing the following minerals:**

**calcite:**

**galena:**

**halite:**

**magnetite:**

**hornblende versus augite:**

On the following page are tables to complete for mineral identification. Generally, the process follows these steps:

**Luster:** metallic or non-metallic?

**Hardness:** Greater or less than 2.5, 3, 5.5?

**Streak:** What color?

**Special identifying characteristics:** magnetic, tastes salty, heavy, layering, crystal form, cleavage?

**Mineral Identification Sheet**

Item Number	Luster	Hardness	Mineral Color	Streak	Cleavage/ Fracture	Diagnostic Property	Chemical Formula	Mineral Name
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

Mineral Identification Sheet (continued)									
Item Number	Luster	Hardness	Mineral Color	Streak	Cleavage/ Fracture	Diagnostic Property	Chemical Formula	Mineral Name	
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
19									
33									