

Name _____ Date _____

READING PASSAGES

Read the passages and answer the questions below!

MINERALS

Minerals are very interesting and are lots of fun to learn about. They are a solid and have never been alive. Minerals were formed in nature. We identify or name minerals by their properties. One property that we look at is how hard a mineral is. When we test or measure a mineral's hardness that is called a scratch test. The hardest mineral is a diamond, and the softest mineral is talc. We use a streak test to help identify minerals. In a streak test, we rub a mineral on an unglazed, white tile and see what color streak it leaves behind. Luster is the reflection of light from a mineral. Minerals with a lot of luster look shiny. Sometimes minerals are the same color, which is why we often cannot use color to identify minerals.

What are minerals?

How do we measure hardness?

What is luster?

Why is color not always a good way to identify minerals?