

# MINERALS

- Non-organic (not from living things)
- Solid at room temp.
- forms crystals
- Fixed chemical formula (made of a certain kind of molecule, usually a compound).

So what? Why learn about minerals?

Minerals make rocks. Since most of the earth is made of rock, it's helpful to know what rocks are made of.

The bottom line: All rocks are completely made of minerals.

# PROPERTIES OF MINERALS

One cool thing about minerals is that they have properties that help us to identify them.

- 1.) COLOR
- 2.) LUSTER (HOW SHINY)
- 3.) CLEAVAGE (SHAPE OF THE CRYSTAL)
- 4.) DENSITY (HOW HEAVY COMPARED TO SIZE)
- 5.) HARDNESS (Hard vs. soft?)
- 6.) STREAK (WHEN YOU SCRATCH IT AGAINST A WHITE SURFACE, WHAT COLOR MARK DOES IT LEAVE BEHIND?)