

Name _____

The Mystery of Minerals: Identifying Through Physical Properties

Open-Ended Response Questions

1. Investigate and explain the importance of the Mohs scale of mineral hardness in mineral identification. Provide examples of minerals at different points on the scale and discuss their relative hardness.
2. Imagine you have a mineral specimen with a glassy luster, a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, and a density of 2.7 g/cm^3 . How might you use these properties to identify the mineral?
3. Research a mineral that displays a unique crystal habit and describe its distinctive growth pattern. Discuss how crystal habit can be a useful identification characteristic.
4. Reflect on why the study of a mineral's physical properties is essential for geologists and scientists. How do these properties help us understand Earth's processes and history?

