

Name _____

The Mystery of Minerals: Identifying Through Physical Properties

Short Answer Key

1. The streak test helps identify minerals by revealing the color of the mineral in its powdered form, which can be different from its external color.
2. Cleavage refers to the way a mineral breaks along smooth, flat surfaces, while fracture is how it breaks when it lacks cleavage, often in irregular patterns.
3. An example of metallic luster is pyrite, and an example of non-metallic luster is quartz.
4. Density is important for mineral identification because it provides information about the mineral's mass per unit volume, which can be unique to different minerals.
5. One example of a special property is magnetism in magnetite, which attracts iron objects.

