

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Precious Pieces of Earth: The Significance of Minerals in Our Planet's Composition

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Responsible mining practices can include minimizing habitat disruption, using sustainable extraction methods, and supporting local communities. Additionally, recycling and reducing mineral consumption can lessen the environmental impact.
2. Minerals have played a vital role in human history, from the Stone Age to the modern technological era. They have been used for tools, weapons, and advancements in science and industry.
3. To identify and classify a mineral, a geologist would examine its physical properties (color, hardness, streak, luster) and perform tests like the acid test or the scratch test. Tools include a geologist's hammer, a hand lens, and a streak plate.
4. Conflict minerals, like those used in electronics, can contribute to violence and human rights abuses in some regions. Consumers can make informed choices by supporting companies that source responsibly and advocating for transparency in supply chains.

