

Rock and Mineral Uses

UTAH CORE CURRICULUM

Grade 2 Standard III Objective 3c

BACKGROUND

Rocks and Minerals are an important part of our daily lives. We use them for agriculture, art, construction, communication, medicine, and so much more. In the United States, each person uses more than one million pounds of rocks and minerals in a lifetime. Investigate how rocks and minerals are used to maintain and improve our way of life.

MATERIALS

- Rocks and Minerals
- Copies “Mineral Uses” worksheet
- Scissors

PROCEDURE

1. Divide students into groups of 3 or 4.
2. Cut out the words on the Mineral Uses worksheet.
3. Examine Rocks and Minerals from the Teaching Toolbox.
4. Discuss what you think each rock or mineral could be used for and place the usage word next to the rock or mineral.
5. Check your answer on the chart (next page). Some minerals may be used for the same thing.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Choose a rock or mineral to study. Go to the library or internet to learn how it is used.

Rock or Mineral	Use
Hematite	Ore of Iron used to make steel (automobiles, tools, bridges), jewelry
Galena	Ore of Lead used to make batteries, radiation shields, fishing weights
Magnetite	Used to make magnets, printing ink, cosmetics
Pyrite	Used to manufacture sulfur, inexpensive jewelry
Calcite	In toothpastes, cements, and mortars
Sulfur	Used to make fertilizer, film, tires, paint, matches, and medicine
Quartz	(silicon dioxide) very abundant mineral on Earth used in glass, computers, sealants
Variscite	Used in some jewelry
Obsidian	Ornamental stone, anciently used as a tool, jewelry, brain surgery scalpel blade
Granite	Used in buildings
Pumice	The pores make it light enough to float in water. It is used as an abrasive in soaps and in emery boards.
Malachite	Ore of copper used in wires, pipes, and paints, jewelry
Wonderstone	Decorative pieces, bookends
Schist	Some have graphite and some are used as building stone
Quartzite	Used in construction
Gneiss	Building stone
Sandstone	Used in construction (easy to work with and decorative)
Fossil Limestone	Limestone is used to manufacture cement, paper, and the packaging of chewing gum.

MINERAL USES

Computer

pipes

toothpaste

coins

CEMENT

electricity

make-up

glass

matches

W
i
r
e
s

bridges

Jewelry

tools

fertilizer

Radiation Shields

Automobiles

mortar

batteries

building stone

Decorations

MAGNETS

Ink

fishing weights

medicines

chewing gum packaging