

## Properties of Minerals

### Understanding Main Ideas

Fill in the blanks in the table below.

Mineral Property	Test
1. _____	Perform scratch test
Color	Observe surface of mineral
2. _____	Observe color of powder on unglazed tile
Luster	Observe how mineral reflects light
3. _____	Find mass per unit volume
4. _____	Observe number and angle of crystal faces
Cleavage and Fracture	Break mineral apart to see if it splits along flat surfaces

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- List the five characteristics necessary for a substance to be a mineral.
- Explain why each mineral has its own properties, different from every other mineral.

### Building Vocabulary

Match each term with its definition by writing the letter of the correct definition on the line beside the term in the left column.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| _____ 7. cleavage             | a. how a mineral reflects light from its surface             |
| _____ 8. streak               | b. a substance composed of a single kind of atom             |
| _____ 9. luster               | c. the property of splitting evenly along flat surfaces      |
| _____ 10. fracture            | d. how a mineral breaks apart when it does not split evenly  |
| _____ 11. Mohs hardness scale | e. the repeating pattern of a mineral's particles in a solid |
| _____ 12. crystal             | f. the color of a mineral's powder                           |
| _____ 13. element             | g. a ranking of minerals from softest to hardest             |