

Minerals, Rocks, and Fossils

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Glossary

amber (AM-buhr) hardened tree sap (21)

cast (KAST) a type of fossil that forms when a fossil mold is filled with minerals (21)

extinct (ek-STINKT) when all the living things of one kind have died out (22)

fossil (FOS-uhl) the remains or traces of a living thing from long ago (20)

gemstone (JEM-stohn) a mineral that can be cut and polished for use in jewelry (16)

hardness (HARD-nis) a physical property that describes how hard a mineral is and how easy or difficult it is to scratch the mineral (6)

igneous rock (IG-nee-uhs ROK) a type of rock that forms when hot, melted rock material cools and hardens (10)

luster (LUHS-tuhr) a physical property that describes how light reflects, or bounces, off a mineral (5)

metamorphic rock (met-uh-MOR-fik ROK) a type of rock that forms when existing rocks are changed by heat and pressure (12)

mineral (MIN-uhr-uhl) a solid, nonliving substance that occurs in nature; minerals are the building blocks of rocks (4)

mold (MOHLD) a type of fossil that is a hollow space in rock left by the remains of a living thing (21)

ore (OR) a mineral that is mined for the valuable substances, such as metals, that it contains (16)

rock (ROK) a naturally formed solid that is composed of one or more minerals (10)

rock cycle (ROK SYE-kuhl) all the ways rocks and rock material can be changed from one type to another (13)

sedimentary rock (sed-uh-MEN-tuh-ree ROK) a type of rock that forms when layers of sediment are pressed together and naturally cemented (11)

streak (STREEK) a physical property that describes the color of a mineral's powdered form (5)