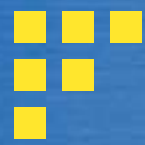


Streak

- The true color of the mineral in its powdered form.
- To find the streak of a mineral, you perform a streak test. To do this you scratch a mineral across an unglazed porcelain tile and the powder streak left on the tile is the true color of the mineral.





Luster

- The appearance of the mineral in reflected light.
- Most minerals can be described as;
 - Metallic
 - Non - Metallic
 - Glassy
 - Greasy
 - Earthy or Dull
 - Pearly

Metallic Luster

- What these minerals look like





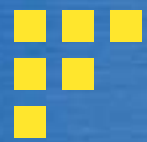
Non-Metallic Glassy





Non-Metallic Greasy





Non-Metallic Earthy/Dull





Non-Metallic Pearly



Color

- The actual color of the mineral you see
- Less distinctive and less reliable than the others
 - Why?
 - 1) Different minerals can have the same color.

Halite



Calcite

- 2) Some minerals may have impurities that cause a single mineral to have many different colors.



Sample Problem

Explain why color is NOT a reliable property for identifying minerals.

Answer:

A single mineral may have different colors due to the presence of impurities. Examples include various colors of quartz, fluorite, calcite, etc.... Also different minerals can have the same color. Examples include minerals such as halite, gypsum, calcite, etc....

