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Mineral Identification Lab

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Mineral Identification Lab Questions

1. List and describe all of the mineral tests in this lab.

2. Some Minerals can be identified by a single property, list such minerals and the property that you used to identify them.

3. What color is biotite? List two other properties that are useful in identifying biotite.

4. There is a second mineral that belongs to the same mineral group as biotite. What is this mineral, its group, and its color?

5. Explain why the feel of gypsum and talc can be used to distinguish between the minerals. (both have hardness of 1-2)

6. Explain how cleavage and fracture can be used to distinguish between quartz and feldspar. (both have hardness of 6-7)

7. Explain how cleavage can be used to distinguish between halite and calcite. Name two more properties that distinguish each.

8. What is the element that makes chalcopyrite different from pyrite. What is the most obvious difference between them?

9. What is the difference between silicates and ferromagnesian silicates? What similarities do they have?

10. Write the formula for calculating specific gravity. How does the specific gravity of metallic minerals compare to the specific gravity of nonmetallic minerals?

11. How does the length of the crystals in hornblende compare to the length of the crystals in augite? Which is a pyroxene and which is an amphibole?

11.What are rock-forming minerals?

13. Most rock forming minerals belong to what mineral group?