



Rocks and Minerals Study Guide

I. Minerals (C36-39)

a. What are minerals? A solid material, formed in nature with particles arranged in a repeated pattern.

- 1) True minerals only form in nature .
- 2) Minerals are solid materials with particles in a repeating pattern.
- 3) Minerals were never alive.

b. Mineral Properties

Geologists classify minerals based on their streak, luster, and hardness.

- 1) Streak is the color or powder left behind when you rub a mineral against a white tile.
- 1) Luster is the way the surface of a mineral reflects light.
- 2) Hardness is a mineral's ability to resist being scratched.

c. Uses of Minerals

Name 3 minerals and their uses.

- 1) Silver-musical instruments, jewelry
- 2) Gypsum-plaster, wall board
- 3) Graphite- pencils

II. Rocks (C42-47)

a. A rock is materials made up of one or more minerals.

b. Types of Rocks - IGNEOUS ROCKS

- 1) Formed when melted rock hardens.
- 2) Examples: granite, pumice
- 3) Igneous meant fire in Latin.

c. SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

- 1) Formed when layers of rock particles are squeezed or stuck together.
- 2) Examples: sandstone, limestone, shale
- 3) Another name for how the rock layers build on top of one another is cross bedding.

d. METAMORPHIC ROCKS

- 1) Formed when high heat or great pressure change a rock.
- 2) Examples: slate, schist, gneiss
- 3) The word metamorphic is made up of two words that mean change and form.

III. The Rock Cycle

The rock cycle is a sequence of events that is repeated over and over again. The rock cycle is the pattern of slow changes in rocks from one kind to another. It includes many processes.

