

## **Minerals**

**Mineral** - A solid element or compound found naturally in the Earth.

**Form / habit** – The 3D shape of a mineral.

**Lustre** – The way in which a mineral reflects light.

**Cleavage** – The ability of a mineral to split along planes of weakness.

**Fracture** – When a mineral breaks, not along planes of weakness.

**Transparency** – The ability of a mineral to let light pass through it.

**Density** – The mass per unit volume of a mineral (or anything else). Density = mass / volume

**Streak** – The colour of the powder of a mineral, obtained by scraping the mineral along an unglazed white tile.

**Twinning** – When two (or more) crystals have grown together.

**Native element** - element which is not combined with other elements.

**Sulfate** - group of minerals containing sulfur and oxygen ( $\text{SO}_4$ )

**Sulphide** – A group of minerals which contain sulphur (S). These minerals react with acid to produce hydrogen sulphide gas (smells of rotten eggs).

**Carbonate** – A group of minerals which contain carbon and oxygen ( $\text{CO}_3$ ). These minerals react with acid to produce carbon dioxide gas.

**Oxide** – A group of minerals which contain oxygen (O).

**Silicate** – A group of minerals which contain silicon and oxygen ( $\text{SiO}\dots$ )

**Rock forming minerals** – Minerals which commonly form rocks.