

Activity: Classification

You will model mineral classification techniques using rocks you found around your neighborhood – and chalk!

Remember: The techniques below are normally used to identify minerals. The rocks you have likely are mixtures of many, many minerals. **Therefore, you will NOT be identifying or naming the rocks based on your activities.** You will be practicing the type of techniques you would use if you were working with minerals.

Purpose

To learn the techniques geologists use to classify minerals.

Materials

- 1-3 Rocks
- Chalk
- Fingernail
- Nail
- Penny
- Nail or screw
- Porcelain Tile (or thick piece of paper)
- Vinegar
- Cup
- Rock Sheets
- Colored Pencils or Crayons



Procedure

[Fill-in a sheet](#) for each rock and for your chalk. Describe the various properties of the rocks and chalk. Assign each of your rocks/chalk a number and place that number on the top of the page. Don't worry if your rocks are too hard to scratch or don't leave streaks.