



Mineral Properties

Procedure

- 1. Classify** Classify the minerals into two groups: metallic (shiny) and nonmetallic (dull or glassy). Use the chart you made for the activity on page 15 to help you.

Metallic: _____

Nonmetallic: _____

- 2. Compare** Use a fingernail to test each mineral for hardness. Record *N* in the chart below for minerals that can be scratched with a fingernail.

Mineral Sample	Hardness	Name
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

- 3. Repeat** step 2 using a copper penny. Record *C* in your chart for minerals that can be scratched with copper. Repeat using a steel nail. Record *S* for minerals that can be scratched with the steel nail.

Name _____ Date _____

4. Finally, see if you can scratch a glass plate with the remaining minerals. Record G for minerals that can scratch glass. Safety: Wear goggles.
5. Compare the properties you recorded in your charts to those listed in the Properties of Minerals table on page 26. Record the name of each mineral in the chart.

Conclusion

1. **Infer** How did the properties you observed help you identify the minerals?

2. **Hypothesize** Why might you be unable to identify some of the minerals?

Ask Questions

What questions do you have about identifying minerals? Make a list of questions. Can you use these questions to design other tests to identify minerals? Explain.

Guided Inquiry