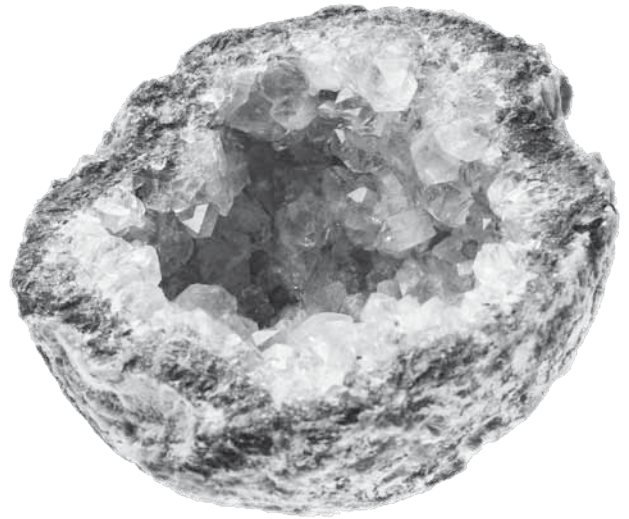




Big Idea 16

Rocks and Minerals

A key feature of dynamic Earth is the cycle that forms and reforms the rocks and minerals that are useful to people. Students' imaginations can be captured by the study of rocks and minerals, such as the history of Earth revealed by rocks and minerals, the various ways people put them to use, the conflicts involved in obtaining them, and the challenges of their limited supply. Students can also see science at work in the tools and methods used to study and classify them.



Enduring Understandings

- The natural world is composed of interdependent systems.
- Earth's materials undergo change over varying lengths of time.
- Earth's materials have physical and chemical characteristics.
- Scientists classify and organize living and nonliving things in categories to better understand them and their relationships.
- Rocks and minerals have characteristics that make them useful to people.
- Earth's resources are limited.

Vocabulary List

- Crystalline
- Fossil
- Gemstone
- Geology
- Igneous
- Lava
- Luster
- Magma
- Metamorphic
- Mining
- Mohs Scale
- Rock cycle
- Sedentary
- Weathering

Essential Questions

Use these questions to enable students to see familiar objects in nature in new and interesting ways.

- How does Earth's surface change?
- What is Earth made of?
- How can people tell what has happened to Earth?
- How do materials cycle through systems?
- Where do rocks and minerals come from?
- Why do rocks look different from each other?
- Are the rocks we see the same ones that dinosaurs saw? Why or why not?
- What story of Earth's history can rocks and minerals tell us?
- Why are some rocks and minerals valuable to people while others are not?
- How are scientists able to sort and identify rocks?
- Why should we be concerned with studying rocks?
- How does the use of Earth's resources affect our environment?

Add your own questions!