



## Common Minerals - Teacher Reference

Name	Colour	Hardness	Specific gravity	Streak	Other
Azurite (Copper ore) $\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$	Deep blue	3.5-4	3.8	Light blue	Found above weathered copper deposits
Biotite (black mica)	Black to brown	2.5-3	2.9		Tabular pseudo-hexagonal crystals
Calcite $\text{CaCO}_3$	White or clear	3	2.71		Rhombohedral, effervesces with acid
Chalcopyrite (Copper ore) $\text{CuFeS}_2$	Brass yellow	3.5-4	4.1-4.3	Deep yellow	Iridescent tarnish, metallic lustre
Diamond	Colourless	10	3.5		Adamantine lustre, octahedral crystals
Feldspar	White/yellow/pink	6	2.5-3		Vitreous lustre
Fluorite	White, green or purple	4	3-3.5	White	Octahedral crystals
Garnet	Red-brown	6.6-7.5	3.5-4.3	White	Rhombohedral crystal faces
Galena (lead sulphide)	Purplish silver	2.5	7.5	Lead grey	Cubic crystals, metallic lustre
Graphite (pencil lead)	Black	1	2.3	Black	Transmits electricity. Feels greasy
Gypsum (Plaster of Paris) $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Grey to white	2	2.3	White	Can form desert roses
Gold	Yellow to white	2.5-3	12-20	Gold	Cut with knife
Halite (rock salt)	Clear to white	2-2.5	2.2	White	Salty taste
Haematite	Black/red	5.5-6.5	5	Red	Major component of iron ore
Hornblende	Green/black	5-6	3-3.5		Vitreous lustre
Kyanite	Blue to white	6.5-7.5	3.6		Flat bladed crystals
Malachite (copper ore) $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$	Green	3.5-4	4	Pale green	Often botryoidal (lumpy)
Magnetite	Black	5.5-6.5	5.2	Black	Magnetic
Muscovite (white mica)	Clear pale greenish	2-2.5	2.9		Pearly lustre, platy
Opal or Chalcedony	Milky white to black	1.8-2.3	5.5-6.5		Conchoidal fracture, semi-precious
Pyrite (Fool's gold)	Brassy yellow	6-6.6	4.8-5.7		Striated cubes
Quartz	Varies	7	2.65		Hexagonal with stepped terminal faces
Talc	Green to white	1-2.5	2.75	White	Pearly lustre
Tourmaline	Black, blue, green, red	7-7.5	3.1		Semi-precious, found in pegmatites