

FLUORITE

Fluorite is a soft rock which can be scratched with a common nail. It can be carved into sculptures. It comes in many different colors and is fluorescent. This means it glows under UV lights. Fluorite from two different places could glow two different colors. It is used in toothpaste and drinking water. It prevents early tooth decay.

COPPER

Copper is a natural metal. It absorbs heat easily so is often used to make pots. It is also used in electrical wires because electricity flows through it easily. There are only two colored metals, copper and gold. It is usually a reddish color. It can also be found in foods we eat, like nuts, calamari and chocolate.

PYRITE

Pyrite is also known as “Fool’s Gold.” Pyrite can be used to start fires. If you strike it with iron, it creates a spark. It was also polished and used as a mirror in the past. Now days, it is used in jewellery and in the manufacturing of ink and paper.

GYPSUM

Gypsum is formed deep underwater when shellfish die. The remains fall to the ocean floor. When rock is formed, it will contain gypsum from the shellfish. It is very soft and can be scratched with your fingernail. It is used in cement, fertilizer and to make medical casts.

QUARTZ

This is the most abundant mineral on the planet. It comes in many different colors. We are able to make quartz in a furnace instead of digging it out of the ground. Quartz is also found on the moon. We use quartz in watches, sandpaper and optical lenses.

CALCITE

Calcite is found in many places on Earth. We can use weak acid, such as vinegar, to test if there is calcite in a product. If calcite is present, it will bubble. Calcite is found in concrete, medicine tablets and is fed to chickens.

MAGNETITE

Magnetite is magnetic rock. It is the most magnetic mineral on Earth. It is black and shiny. You can find your own magnetite by pulling a magnet through sand. The grains of black that sticks to the magnet is magnetite. It was used in early compasses. Now it is used as pigment in paints and in fertilizers.

MICA

Mica is very flexible. If you bend it in one direction, it will return to its original shape when released. It is very soft and can be scratched with your nail. This mineral is used in toasters, sparkles in cosmetics and makes your camera flash.