



Earth's Mineral Treasure Chest

Search Activity

What you need:

- Thumbtack
- Penny
- Baking pan
- Soda can
- Coffee mug
- Margarine tub or another plastic container
- Light bulb

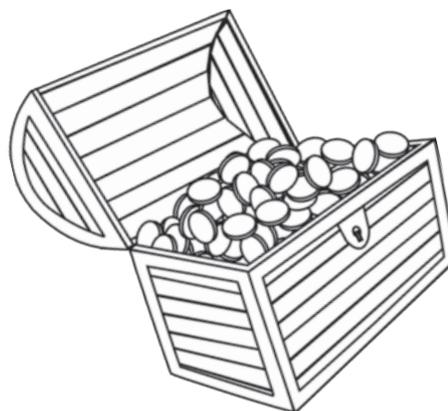
What you'll do:

- Look over the items gathered from the list above. Ask children what they think the items are made of? Have them make a list of the material they think each item is made with. Answers: metal, copper, metal, aluminum, clay, plastic, glass
- What do they all have in common? Everything they are made of comes from the Earth! Some we can easily use with a little melting, like copper (used in electric wires). We process others to make objects we want. For example, we use petroleum to make plastic bags.
- Ask your child to look around the room. How many things are made of metal? How many things are made of plastic? How many things are made of glass? You can have them make a list of items made from different materials.
- Life would be difficult if we did not have these items. Thanks to the Earth's treasures, life is easier. Some of those treasures are called minerals. You use minerals all the time. Do you use salt on your food? That is a mineral. Do you play with sand in a sand box? The sand grains are made of minerals. Have you used modeling clay? Clay is made up of tiny minerals. Jewels like diamonds and rubies are minerals too. Other minerals are metals, like gold, silver, copper, and iron. Minerals are in a lot of things we find in our grocery and hardware stores.

SEARCH



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Worksheet

Mineral Shopping Lists

Now that you have learned about some of the minerals we find in our daily lives, here are some mineral shopping lists. Can you figure out what each of the items are? Do you have any of these items in your home?

Groceries:

1. 1 gallon of calcium
2. Sodium chloride (1 small container)
3. 1 package of fluoride
4. Clay pellets
5. Cardboard strip with diamond dust
6. Dried lava
7. Box of phosphorus, magnesium, zinc, copper, iron and calcium (honey-nut flavored)

What is it?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Is this mineral in your home?

- | | | |
|----|-----|----|
| 1. | yes | no |
| 2. | yes | no |
| 3. | yes | no |
| 4. | yes | no |
| 5. | yes | no |
| 6. | yes | no |
| 7. | yes | no |

School Supplies:

8. 1 box of graphite
9. 1 box of limestone (assorted colors)

8. _____
9. _____

- | | | |
|----|-----|----|
| 8. | yes | no |
| 9. | yes | no |

For a camping trip:

10. Zinc oxide (1 tube)
11. Box of phosphorus and sulfur

10. _____
11. _____

- | | | |
|-----|-----|----|
| 10. | yes | no |
| 11. | yes | no |

FIND



Earth's Mineral Treasure Chest

Worksheet

Below is a scavenger hunt for more minerals that you may have in your home. Can you solve these clues?

Scavenger Hunt:	What is it?	Is this mineral in your home?
12. Spikes of these earth materials help hold your house together	12. _____	12. yes no
13. You use this earth material to hold your book report together	13. _____	13. yes no
14. You rip off a sheet of this earth metal to cover a casserole in the oven	14. _____	14. yes no
15. A flashlight and cell phone operate with the help of this earth mineral	15. _____	15. yes no
16. Babies like a dusting of this earth mineral after their bath	16. _____	16. yes no
17. The inside walls of your house might be made of this earth mineral	17. _____	17. yes no
18. This earth metal carries electricity into your house	18. _____	18. yes no



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