



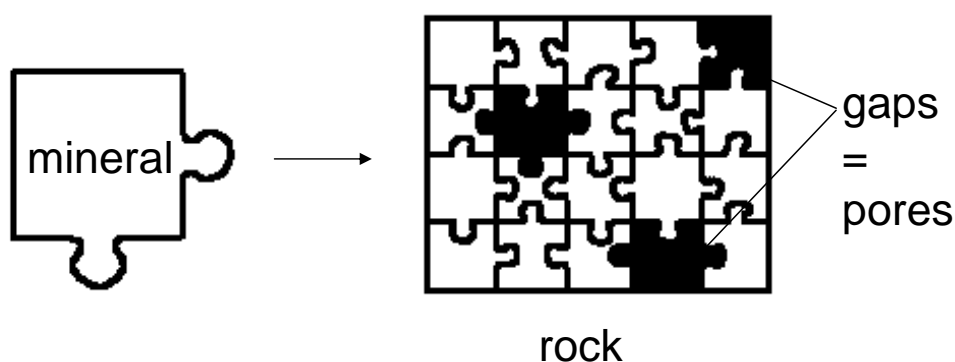
# NATURAL STONE

## 1 - MINERALOGY



### Some definitions

**Natural Stone = Rock** = natural material constituting the crust and mantle. Generally, it is solid ( $\neq$  unconsolidated sediments like sand) and made of aggregate of **minerals** more or less closely knitted together (gaps = **pores**)





## Some definitions

**Mineral** = **inorganic** natural compound (although some of them may be bioproducts like apatite, calcite, oxalates...) with a **definite chemical composition**, an **atomic structure** and **physical properties** of its own. Generally, it is **solid** ( $\neq$  mercury)

**Cristal** = **homogeneous solid** composed of atoms, ions or molecules with an **organized arrangement** that is **repeated periodically** in three dimensions of space (cristal  $\neq$  amorphous compounds)



## Classification of minerals

Minerals may be classified according to chemical composition. We can define 8 major classes ( $\approx$  in order of abundance):

1. **Silicates** ((Si,Al)<sub>x</sub>O<sub>2x</sub>+/-alk. and alk. earth met.)
2. **Carbonates** (CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>)
3. **Sulfates** (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>)
4. **Halides** (Cl<sup>-</sup>, F<sup>-</sup>,...)
5. **Oxides** (O<sup>2-</sup>), **hydroxides** (OH<sup>-</sup>)
6. **Sulfides** (S<sup>2-</sup>)
7. **Phosphates** (PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>)
8. **Native elements** (C, S, Au,...)

+ 2 minor classes : **borates** (borax,...)  
and **organic minerals** (amber, oxalates, ...)



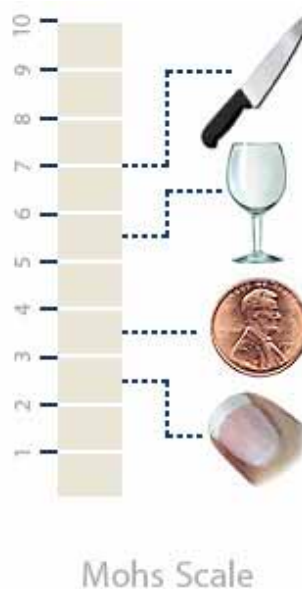
## The identification criteria of minerals

- **Colour:** not a differential criteria
- **Streak (*trait*):** colour of the powder, more reliable than the colour of the mineral itself (Scratch unglazed porcelain)
- **Luster (*éclat*):** aspect of the surface mineral when it reflects light
- **Flam test:** the color of flames depends on the chemical composition (Ca: red, Na: yellow, Cu: blue or green, K: violet...)



## The identification criteria of minerals

- **Hardness:** Mohs scale of relative mineral hardness





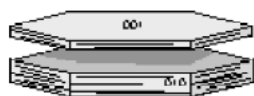
## The identification criteria of minerals

- **Density:** physical constant (2.7 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for silicates)
- **Reaction with dilute HCl (10%):** carbonates + HCl 10% => emission of CO<sub>2</sub> = effervescence (calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) fizzes readily in either massive or powdered form, but dolomite (Ca,Mg(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) reacts best as a powder or with heated acid)
- **Touch, flavour, radioactivity, magnetism,...**



## The identification criteria of minerals

- **Cleavage / fracture:** in some minerals, bonds between layers of atoms aligned in certain directions are weaker than bonds between different layers. In these cases, breakage occurs along smooth, flat surfaces parallel to those zones of weakness



micas



pyroxène



≠

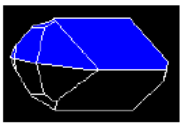


conchoidal fracture

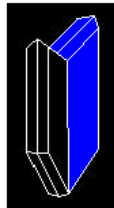


# The identification criteria of minerals

- **Twinning (macle):** Crystal twinning occurs when two separate crystals share some of the same crystal lattice points in a symmetrical manner. The result is an intergrowth of two separate crystals in a variety of specific configurations.



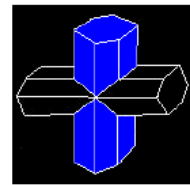
microcline



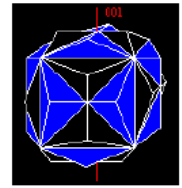
gypse



orthose



staurotide













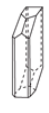









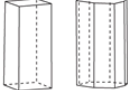




pyrite



# The identification criteria of minerals

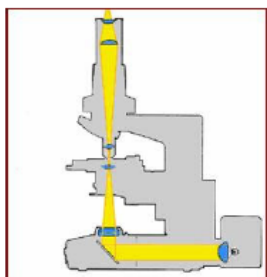
**Crystal shape: the 7 crystal systems**

<p><b>Cubic</b></p>  <p>Cube</p>  <p>Octahedron</p>  <p>Dodecahedron</p>  <p>Tetrahedron</p>  <p>Pyritohedron</p>  <p>Cube &amp; Pyritohedron</p>	<p><b>Orthorhombic</b></p>  <p>Pinacoids</p>  <p>Prism and Basal Pinacoid</p>  <p>Pyramid</p>  <p>Orthorhombic Sphenoid and Prism</p>  <p>Prism, Domes and Two Pinacoids</p>	<p><b>Monoclinic</b></p>  <p>Domes and Pinacoid</p>  <p>Prism and Pinacoid</p> <p><b>Triclinic</b></p>   	<p><b>Trigonal</b></p>  <p>Rhombohedra</p>  <p>Trigonal Trapezohedron</p>  <p>Trigonal Scalenohedron</p> <p><b>Hexagonal</b></p>  <p>Hexagonal Prism and Base</p>  <p>Hexagonal Pyramid</p>  <p>Hexagonal Prism and Pyramid</p> <p><b>Tetragonal</b></p>  <p>Tetragonal and Ditetragonal Prism and Base</p>  <p>Tetragonal Pyramid</p>  <p>Prism and Pyramid</p>
---	---	--	--

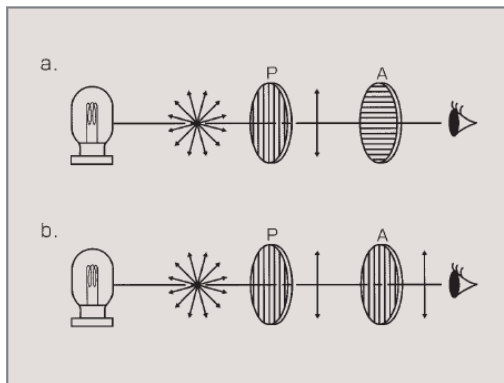


# The identification criteria of minerals

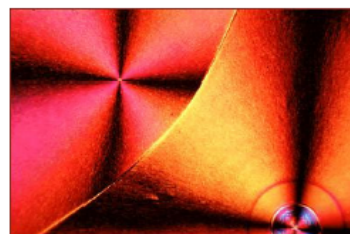
## - Optical properties:



Polarizing microscope



● Fig. 1.3 a) crossed nicols and b) parallel nicols ●  
P: polarizer A: analyzer



Interference colors

For more details, see for ex.:

[http://www.olympusamerica.com/files/seg\\_polar\\_basic\\_theory.pdf](http://www.olympusamerica.com/files/seg_polar_basic_theory.pdf) (english)

[http://www.kasuku.ch/pdf1.php#a\\_microscope](http://www.kasuku.ch/pdf1.php#a_microscope) (french)



Mineral Category	Mineral name Chem. formula	Colour Streak	Hard ness	Lustre Transparency	Cleavage Fracture	Habit Cryst. Syst.	Remarks
Elements	<b>Graphite</b> C	steel grey, black grey to black	1	metallic, dull opaque	5 (excellent) elastic flexible	 hexagonal	colours paper, greasy touch
Sulfides	<b>Galena</b> PbS	lead grey grey to black	2,5-3	metallic opaque	5 (excellent) conchoidal	 cubic	sometimes iridescence
	<b>Chalcopyrite</b> CuFeS <sub>2</sub>	brass yellow Greenish black to black	3,5-4	metallic opaque	1 (indistinct) uneven	 tetragonal	often Iridescence: brownish, blackish, colourful
	<b>Pyrite</b> FeS <sub>2</sub>	bright to bright brass yellow greenish and brownish black	6-6,5	metallic opaque	1 (indistinct) conchoidal	 cubic	often Iridescence: golden yellow, brownish, colourful
	<b>Orpiment</b> As <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	lemon yellow, brownish yellow, orange yellow pale lemon-yellow	1,5 – 2	resinous, pearly on cleavage surface translucent	2-4 (fair to perfect) uneven	<i>monoclinic</i>	pigment found in wall paintings in Ladakh
Halides	<b>Fluorite</b> CaF <sub>2</sub>	usually coloured, rarely colourless, white	4	glassy transparent to opaque	4 (perfect) uneven	 cubic	often fluorescent, during crushing typical unpleasant odour
	<b>Halite</b> = Salt NaCl	colourless to white, often coloured white	2	vitreous, greasy transparent to opaque	5 (excellent) conchoidal, uneven	 cubic	easily soluble in water, salty taste; cooking salt
Oxides, Hydroxides (cont. next page)	<b>Corundum</b> Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	rarely colourless, often grey, blue, red white	9	vitreous Transparent to opaque	0 (none), conchoidal	 trigonal	varieties: Sapphire (blue), Ruby (red) etc.
	<b>Hematite</b> Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	greyish black bright red to reddish brown	5,5- 6,5	metallic, dull opaque	0 (none) uneven, conchoidal,	 trigonal - hexagonal	pigment found in wall paintings in Ladakh (red ochre)
	<b>Magnetite</b> Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Ferrous black black	5,5-6	metallic, dull opaque	1 (indistinct) conchoidal,	 cubic	magnetic





Mineral Category	Mineral name Chem. formula	Colour Streak	Hard ness	Lustre Transparency	Cleavage Fracture	Habit Cryst. Syst.	Remarks
Oxides, Hydrides (cont.)	<b>Limonite</b> FeOOH·nH <sub>2</sub> O	brown to yellow, brownish black <i>braun bis gelb</i>	5-5.5	silky, often dull <i>transparent</i> , mostly <i>opaque</i>	4 (perfect) – difficulty detectable <i>uneven</i>	 <i>orthorhom bic</i>	amorphous and cryptocrystalline mixture of Goethite and Lepidocrocite; pigment found in wall paintings in Ladakh (yellow ochre)
Carbo- nates	<b>Calcite</b> CaCO <sub>3</sub>	colourless, often white, grey or coloured <i>white</i>	3	vitreous, silky, pearly <i>transparent</i> to <i>opaque</i>	5 (excellent) <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>trigonal</i>	strong reaction in cold HCl (10%)
	<b>Dolomite</b> CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	colourless, white, often yellowish <i>white</i>	3.5-4	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	4 (perfect) <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>trigonal</i>	hardly any reaction in cold HCl (10%)
	<b>Malachite</b> Cu <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	green, dark green, blackish green <i>light green</i>	3.5-4	vitreous - silky <i>Translucent</i> to <i>opaque</i>	2 – 4 (fair to perfect) <i>uneven</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	pigment found in wall paintings in Ladakh
	<b>Azurite</b> Cu <sub>3</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	azure blue, blue, light blue, dark blue <i>light blue</i>	3.5-4	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>subtranslucent</i>	2 – 4 (fair to perfect) <i>Brittle - conchoidal</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	pigment found in wall paintings in Ladakh
Sulfates	<b>Baryte</b> BaSO <sub>4</sub>	Colourless, white, often pale pink <i>white</i>	3-3.5	vitreous, greasy looking <i>often translucent</i> to <i>opaque</i>	3 (good) <i>uneven, conchoidal</i>	 <i>orthorhom bic</i>	high density, platelike habitus
	<b>Anhydrite</b> CaSO <sub>4</sub>	colourless, white to grey <i>white to greyish white</i>	3-3.5	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	3 - 4 (good to perfect) <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>orthorhom bic</i>	Fractures into nearly dice shaped grains
	<b>Gypsum</b> CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O	colourless, whitish grey, yellow <i>white</i>	1.5-2	Vitreous <i>Transparent, translucent, opaque</i>	5 (excellent) <i>conchoidal, fibrous</i>	 <i>monoclinic</i>	Varieties: Selenite (glasslike), Alabaster (fine grained); efflores- cence
	<b>Mirabilite</b> Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> ·10H <sub>2</sub> O	colourless, white <i>white</i>	1.5-2	Vitreous <i>Transparent, translucent, opaque</i>	4 (perfect) <i>conchoidal</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	easily soluble in water; efflorescence
	<b>Thenardite</b> Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	White <i>white</i>	2.5	vitreous, greasy <i>transparent</i>	4 (perfect) <i>Splintery</i>	<i>ortho- rhombic</i>	easily soluble in water; efflorescence
	<b>Epsomite</b> MgSO <sub>4</sub> ·7H <sub>2</sub> O	colourless, white <i>white</i>	2-2.5	vitreous <i>Transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	4 (perfect) <i>Acicular</i>	<i>ortho- rhombic</i>	easily soluble in water; efflorescence, bitter taste



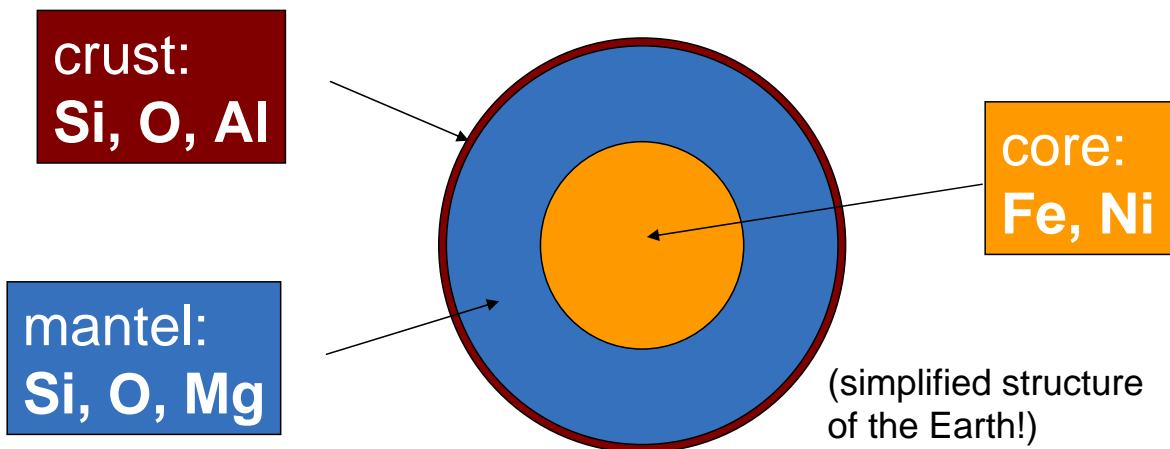
Mineral Category	Mineral name Chem. formula	Colour Streak	Hard ness	Lustre Transparency	Cleavage Fracture	Habit Cryst. Syst.	Remarks
Silicates and Quartz	<b>Olivine</b> (Mg,Fe) <sub>2</sub> [SiO <sub>4</sub> ]	pale green, oliv <i>white</i>	6.5-7	pale green, oliv <i>white</i>	prism surfaces vitreous, fractured surfaces waxy <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	 <i>ortho- rhombic</i>	"saccharoidal" appearance
	<b>Chrysotile = Asbestos</b> Mg <sub>3</sub> (Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )(OH) <sub>4</sub>	green <i>white</i>	2.5	silky <i>translucent</i>	0 (none) <i>fibrous</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	
	<b>Lizardite</b> Mg <sub>3</sub> (Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> )(OH) <sub>4</sub>	green, green blue, yellow, white <i>white</i>	2.5	silky <i>translucent</i>	4 (perfect)	<i>triclinic</i>	found in "Karsi"
	<b>Garnet</b> X <sub>3</sub> Y <sub>2</sub> [SiO <sub>4</sub> ] <sub>3</sub> X = Mg, Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> , Ca Y = Al, Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> , V <sup>3+</sup>	very variable dependent on composition <i>white</i>	6.5- 7.5	vitreous to resinous <i>translucent</i> to <i>opaque</i>	1 (indistinct) <i>conchoidal, splintery</i>	 <i>cubic</i>	varieties: Pyrope (MgAl); dark red), Almandine (Fe Al); brown red), Spessartine (Mn Al); brown), Grossular (Ca Al); pale green), Uwarowite (Ca Cr); green) etc.
	<b>Kyanite (Disthen)</b> Al <sub>2</sub> (O/SiO <sub>4</sub> )	clear blue, whitish <i>white</i>	4-4.5 and 6-7	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	2 und 4 (fair to perfect) <i>uneven</i>	 <i>triclinic</i>	anisotropic hardness
	<b>Topaz</b> Al <sub>2</sub> (F <sub>2</sub> /SiO <sub>4</sub> )	clear (if no impurities), blue, brown, orange, gray, yellow, pink, reddish pink and green <i>white</i>	8	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	4 (perfect) <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>ortho- rhombic</i>	
	<b>Tourmaline</b> XY <sub>2</sub> Z <sub>6</sub> [(OH) <sub>4</sub> ]/ (BO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> /Si <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> ] X = Na, Ca Y = Al, Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Mg, Ti <sup>4+</sup> , Cr <sup>3+</sup> Z = Al, Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Mn	very variable according to composition <i>white</i>	7	vitreous <i>transparent</i> to <i>translucent</i>	0 (none), <i>conchoidal, uneven, splintery</i>	 <i>trigonal</i>	varieties: Schorl (black), Dravite (brown), Elbaite (green) etc.
	<b>Pyroxene</b> XY[Z <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub> ] X = Li, Na <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Mg Y = Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Mg, Mn, Ti, Al, Cr <sup>3+</sup> Z = Si <sup>4+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup>	often black, greenish and brownish black <i>Not very cha- racteristic: greyish green or brown, white</i>	5.5-7	vitreous <i>Opaque, rarely translucent</i>	2-3 (fair - good), angle of cleavage planes +/- 90°  <i>conchoidal, uneven</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	often more stucky habit and more dull fracture plains than Amphiboles



Mineral Category	Mineral name Chem. formula	Colour Streak	Hardness	Lustre Transparency	Cleavage Fracture	Habit Cryst. Syst.	Remarks
	<b>Amphibole</b> $A_6B_7C_5\{(OH, F)_2/T_2O_{22}\}$ A = Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> B = Ca <sup>2+</sup> , Na <sup>+</sup> , Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> C = Mg <sup>2+</sup> , Fe <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup> , Fe <sup>3+</sup> , Ti <sup>4+</sup> , T = Sr <sup>2+</sup> , Al <sup>3+</sup>	often black, greenish and brownish black <i>Not very characteristic: greyish green, yellow or brown, white</i>	5-6	vitreous <i>opaque</i>	4 (perfect) angle of cleavage planes +/- 120°  <i>uneven</i>	 <i>monoclinic</i>	often more columnar habit than Pyroxenes
	<b>Talc</b> $Mg_3(OH)_2/Si_4O_{10}$	Bright green, white, grey, yellowish white	1	waxy, pearly, dull <i>translucent</i>	5 (excellent) <i>uneven</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	greasy touch
	<b>Muscovite = white mica</b> $KA_2(OH)_2AlSi_3O_{10}$	colourless, silvery, yellowish, greenish white	2-2,5		5 (excellent) <i>micaceous</i>	 <i>monoclinic</i>	easily delaminated
	<b>Biotite = dark mica</b> $K(Mg,Fe)_3(OH)_2(Al,Fe)Si_3O_{10}$	black, dark brown, dark green white	2,5-3	pearly <i>translucent to opaque</i>	5 (excellent) <i>micaceous</i>	<i>monoclinic</i>	easily delaminated; golden weathering colour
	<b>Quarz</b> $SiO_2$	colourless, often white to grey, various colours white	7	prism surfaces vitreous, fractured surfaces waxy to dull <i>transparent, to opaque</i>	0 (none) <i>conchoidal, also granular, splintery fibrous</i>	 <i>trigonal</i>	many varieties: rock cryst., Citrine, Onyx, Agate, Amethyste, smoky quartz, rose quartz, Chalcedony, Carnelian, Jasper, Chrysoprase etc.
	<b>Opal</b> $SiO_2 \cdot nH_2O$	colourless, diverse colourations white	5,5-6,5	vitreous, dull waxy, <i>opaque to transparent</i>	0 (none) <i>conchoidal</i>	<i>amorphous no crystals</i>	amorphous, glasslike and dense material, opalescent!
	<b>Orthoclase = alkali feldspar</b> $K[AlSi_3O_8]$	reddish, yellow, white white	6	vitreous <i>opaque</i>	3-4 (good – perfect) cleav. planes angle 90° <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>monoclinic</i>	typically displays carlsbad twinning, fractures in right angles
	<b>Plagioclase</b> Albite (Ab): $Na[AlSi_3O_8]$ Anorthite (An): $Ca[Al_2Si_2O_8]$	white, grey, greenish, yellowish white	6-6,5	vitreous <i>translucent</i>	4 (perfect) angle of cleav. planes 86°-88° <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>triclinic</i>	often polysynthetic twinning
	<b>Leucite</b> $K[AlSi_3O_8]$	white, grey, colourless white	5,5-6	glassy waxy <i>translucent to opaque</i>	0 (none) <i>conchoidal, uneven</i>	 <i>tetragonal</i>	does not occur together with quartz
	<b>Nepheline = nephelite</b> $Na[AlSi_3O_8]$	colourless, white white	5,5-6	vitreous on prism surfaces, waxy on fract. <i>translucent to opaque</i>	0-1 (none to indistinct) <i>conchoidal</i>	 <i>hexagonal</i>	does not occur together with quartz
	<b>Lazurite = Lapis Lazuli</b> $Na_3CaAl_3Si_3O_{12}S$	blue <i>light blue</i>	5,5	vitreous - dull <i>translucent</i>	1 (indistinct) <i>conchoidal</i>	<i>cubic</i>	does not occur together with quartz



## Distribution of elements within the earth



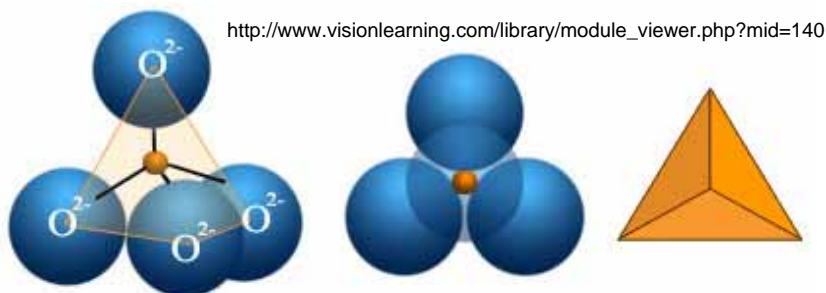
➔ silicates (& other light minerals) are the most abundant minerals in the earth's surface





## The silicate class

The silicates are the largest, the most interesting and the most complicated class of minerals. ≈ 30% of all minerals are silicates and 90% of the Earth's crust is made up of silicates.



The basic chemical unit of silicates is the (SiO<sub>4</sub>) tetrahedron shaped anionic group **with a negative four charge (-4)**.  
**But a mineral must be neutral !!!**



## The silicate class - Neutralization of charges...

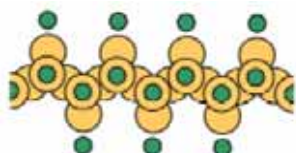
- with cations :



- polymerization with sharing the O<sup>2-</sup> anions :


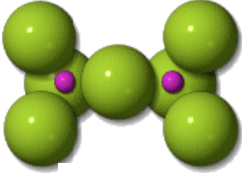
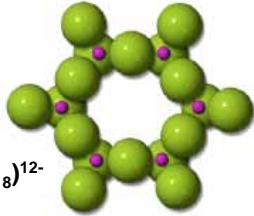
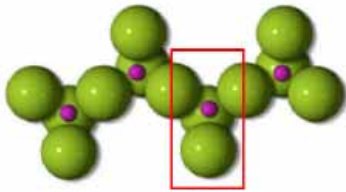
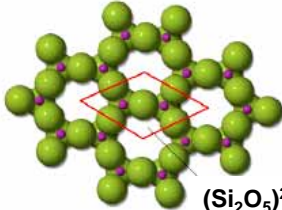
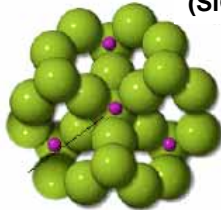


- combining the two previous solutions :





## The silicate class - The 6 groups of silicate minerals

<p><b>Nesosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{SiO}_4)^{4-}</math></p> <p>ex.: olivine, garnet, zircon,...</p>	<p><b>Sorosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)^{6-}</math></p> <p>ex.: epidote,...</p>	<p><b>Cyclosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18})^{12-}</math></p> <p>ex.: beryl, tourmaline,...</p>
<p><b>Inosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{SiO}_3)^{2-}</math></p> <p>ex.: pyroxene, amphibole,...</p>	<p><b>Phyllosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5)^{2-}</math></p> <p>ex.: mica, clay,...</p>	<p><b>Tectosilicates</b></p>  <p><math>(\text{SiO}_2)^0</math></p> <p>ex.: quartz, feldspar,...</p>



## Minerals and rocks

### Cardinal minerals:

60 to 70% of the rock (usually white or slightly colored)  
*quartz, feldspars, feldspathoids, calcite*

### Essential minerals:

20 to 25% of the rock (often dark)  
*micas, amphiboles, pyroxenes, olivine,...*

### Accessory minerals:

5 to 10% of the rock  
*oxides, sulfides,...*



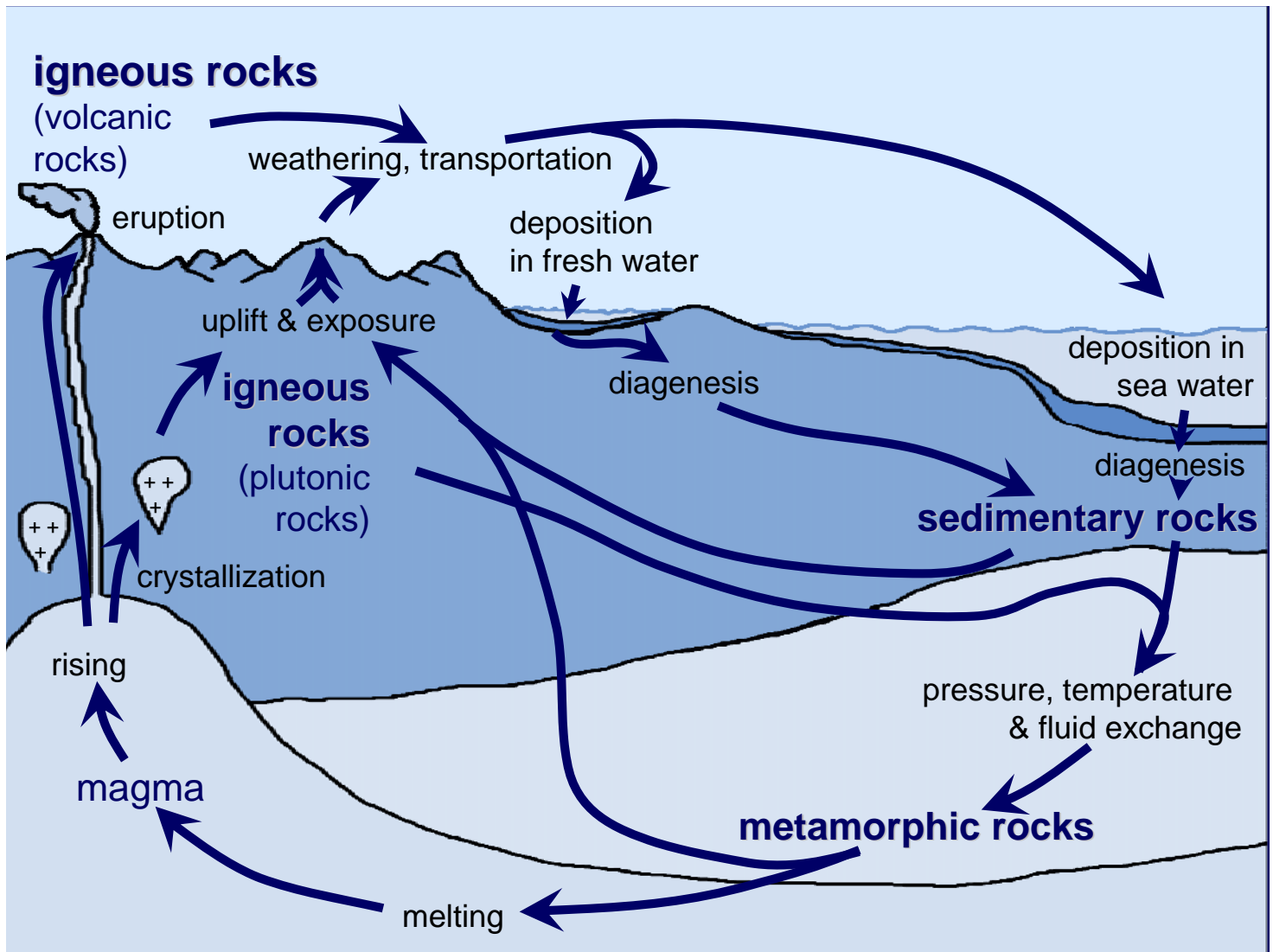
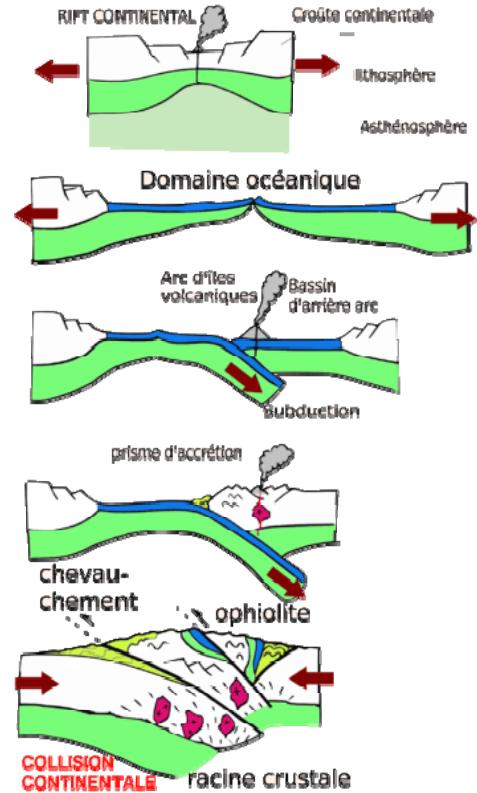
# Genesis of minerals and rocks

## Endogenous genesis (in depth)

- **magmatic process:** coming from a magma
- **metamorphic process:** transformation of pre-existent mineral materials

## Exogenic genesis (at the surface)

- **sedimentary process:** pre-existent mineral materials transformation and/or neo-formation





## A few silicate minerals



## Nesosilicates / Garnets $(X_3^{2+}Y_2^{3+}[\text{SiO}_4]_3)$



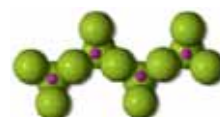
*Use:* gemstone, abrasive





## Inosilicates / Amphiboles

**Bleu asbestos: Crocidolite** ( $\text{Na}_2(\text{Fe},\text{Mg})_5\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ )



## Inosilicates / Amphiboles

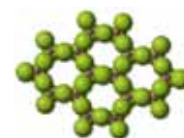
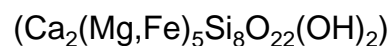
**Brown asbestos: Amosite** ( $\text{Fe}_7\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{22}(\text{OH})_2$ )





## Inosilicates / Amphiboles

**Green asbestos. ex. : Actinolite**



## Phyllosilicates / Micas

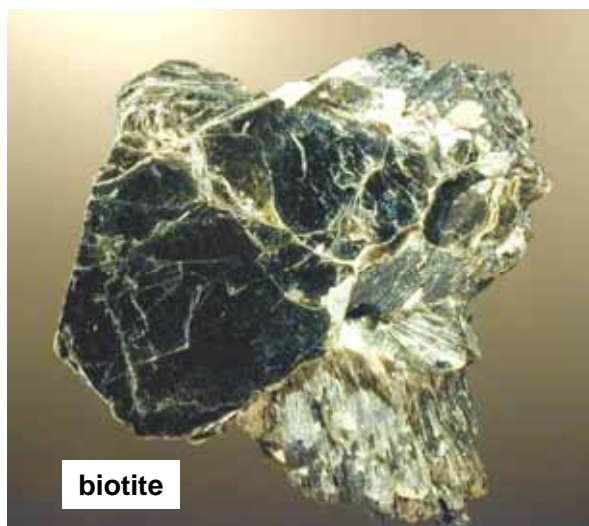
**Muscovite**  $(KAl_2[(OH,F)_2|AlSi_3O_{10}])$  white mica,

**Biotite**  $(K(Mg,Fe^{2+},Mn^{2+})_3[(OH,F)_2(Al,Fe^{3+},Ti^{3+})Si_3O_{10}])$  black/brown mica

*Use: Heat, acoustic and electric insulator, paints*

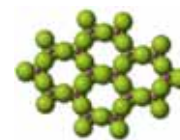


**muscovite**



**biotite**

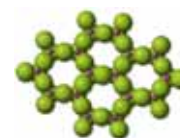




## Phyllosilicates / Clay minerals

**Kaolinite**  $(Al_2Si_2O_5(OH)_4)$

*Use:*  
porcelain  
manufacture,  
filler in papers



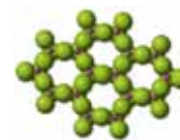
## Phyllosilicates / Clay minerals

**Montmorillonite**  $((Na,Ca)_{0.3}(Al,Mg)_2Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2.nH_2O)$

Swelling clay mineral exchanger of ions

*Use:* gastric plaster, cleaner of greases  
(Terre de Sommières), bentonite,  
container for the nuclear waste

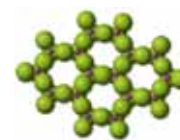




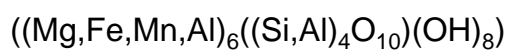
## Phyllosilicates / Clay minerals

### Talc ( $Mg_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$ )

*Use of talc:*  
cosmetic,  
lubricant,  
manufacture of  
paper, excipient  
and lubricant in  
the  
pharmaceutical  
industry, tailor's  
chalk

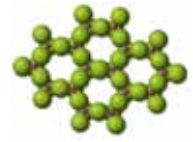


## Phyllosilicates / Chlorites



*Use:*  
decorative stone





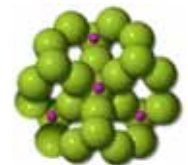
## Phyllosilicates / Serpentinites

### White asbestos: Chrysotile ( $Mg_3Si_2O_5(OH)_4$ )

*Use:* reinforced cement, machine parts under friction, joints for high temperature machines... because non flammable, imputrescible, flexible, resistant to the majority of chemicals and with a high breaking stress => majority of the world market of asbestos



<http://www.ec.gc.ca/nopp/docs/consult/Rotterdam/ca/fr/chrysotileBG.cfm>



## Tectosilicates / Quartz

( $SiO_2$ )

*Use:*  
Piezoelectric  
(clock industry, ...) and...



citrine



amethyst

gemstones (amethyst, citrine)...  
cryptocrystalline varieties: flint,  
agate, onyx, carnelian,  
jasper, opal





# Tectosilicates / Feldspars

## K- feldspars ( $KAISi_3O_8$ )



microcline



amazonite



orthose



microcline



sanidine



*Use:*  
ceramics,  
porcelain, glass,  
bricks, soaps,  
scouring  
powders,  
gemstones



# Tectosilicates / Feldspars

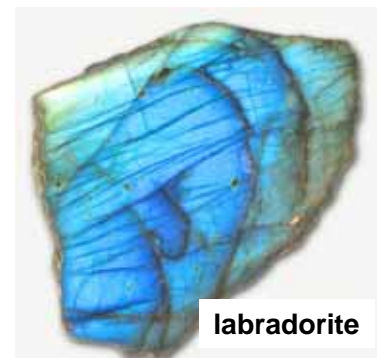
## Plagioclases ( $AlSi_3O_8$ )(Ca,Na)



anorthite



albite



labradorite

*Use:*  
ceramics,  
porcelain, glass,  
bricks, soaps,  
scouring  
powders,  
gemstones



albite



oligoclase



## Tectosilicates / Feldspathoids

**Lazurite**  $((\text{Na}, \text{Ca})_8(\text{Al}, \text{Si})_{12}\text{O}_{24}\text{S}_2 \text{FeS} \cdot \text{CaCO}_3)$



*Use:* gemstone, blue pigment



## A few non silicate minerals





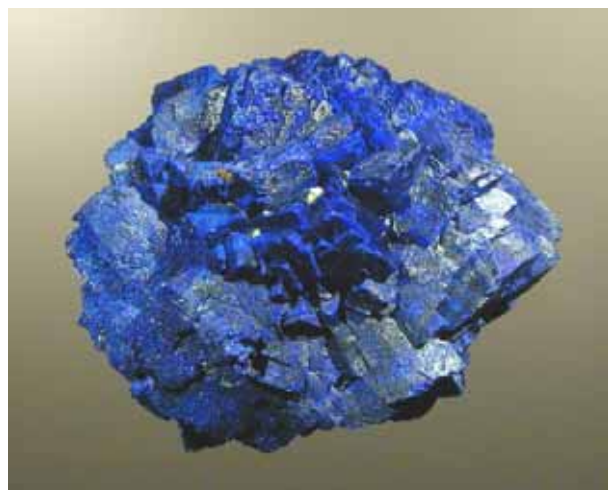
## Carbonates / Calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ )

*Use:* white pigment (calcite as chalk used since prehistory), raw material of lime



## Carbonates / Azurite ( $2\text{CuCO}_3, \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$ )

*Use:* blue pigment, gemstone







## Carbonates / Malachite ( $\text{CuCO}_3, \text{Cu}(\text{OH})_3$ )

*Use:* green pigment, gemstone



polished roller



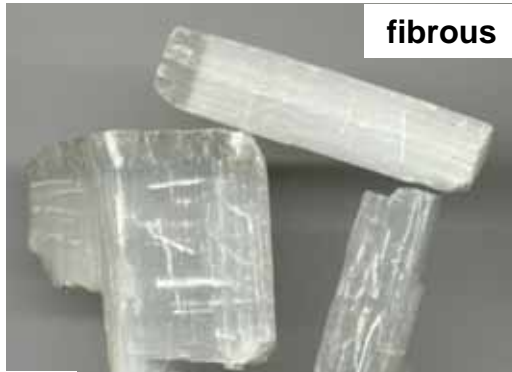
## Carbonates / Cerussite ( $\text{PbCO}_3$ )

*Use:* cosmetic (in the past since antiquity); white pigment (= white lead)





# Sulfates / Gypsum (CaSO<sub>4</sub>,2H<sub>2</sub>O)

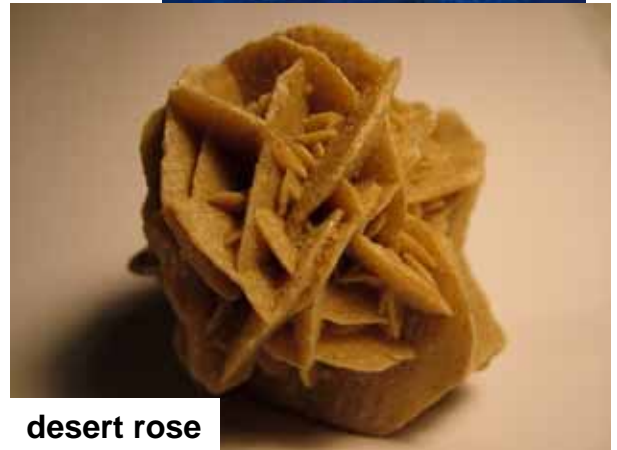


fibrous

swallowtail twinning



# Selenite (= pierre de lune)

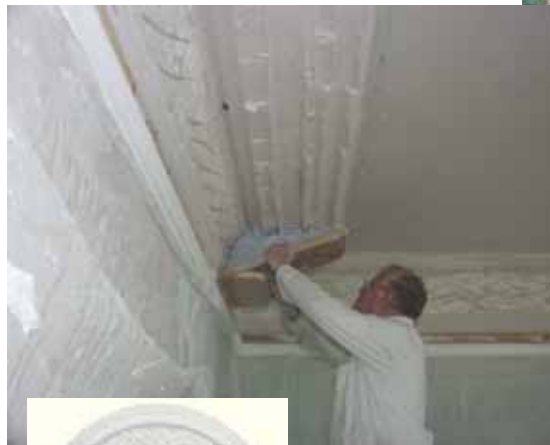


desert rose



# Sulfates / Gypsum (CaSO<sub>4</sub>,2H<sub>2</sub>O)

*Use:* raw material of plaster; fertilizer and soil conditioner, Tofu coagulant, blackboard chalk





## Sulfates / Gypsum alabaster ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

Use: decorative stone



## Sulfates / Gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )

*Danger:* coming from the air pollution, the stone itself or from cements => degrading stones







## Sulfates / Barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ )

*Use:* major source of barium, white pigment (blanc fixe), used in paper or paint manufacturing, radiography, heavy filler



## Halides / Halite ( $\text{NaCl}$ )

*Use:* table salt, road salt

*Danger for building stones:*  
crystallisation  
damp patches





## Halides / Sylvite (KCl)

*Use:* fertilizer, substitute for table salt, lethal injection

*Danger for building stones:* crystallisation, damp patches



## Halides / Fluorite (CaF<sub>2</sub>)

*Use:* manufacture of hydrofluoric acid, enamels, glass fibre; used as camera lens; purple pigment; gemstone







## Oxides / Hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )

*Use:* red pigment;  
gemstone



## Oxides / Goethite ( $\text{FeO}(\text{OH})$ )

*Use:* yellow pigment







## Oxides / Rutile ( $\text{TiO}_2$ )

*Use:* white pigment (artificial); manufacture of paints; +/- in gemstones



## Oxides / Corundum ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )

*Use:* abrasive; gemstones



sapphire



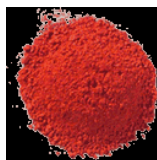
ruby





## Oxides / Minium ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$ )

*Use:* red pigment, manufacture of glass, protecting paint against the corrosion of metals



## Oxides / Massicot (or litharge) ( $\text{PbO}$ )

*Use:* yellow pigment, manufacture of glass, of oils and varnishes (desiccant), production of insecticides







## Sulfides / Galena (PbS)

*Use:* black pigment, cosmetic (khol), semiconductor in old wireless systems



## Sulfides / Pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) (= fool's gold)

*Use:* production of sulfur dioxide for paper industry or manufacturing of sulfuric acid

*"Dangers" in building* oxidation makes it dangerous in aggregates of concrete; rust patches on stones (marble, sandstones,...)





## Sulfides / Realgar ( $\text{AsS}$ )

*Use:* red pigment;  
fireworks

*Problems:* unstable  
with light ( $\Rightarrow$  yellow  
pararealgar)



## Sulfides / Orpiment ( $\text{As}_2\text{S}_3$ )

*Use:* yellow pigment;  
production of  
semiconductors and  
photoconductors,  
fireworks

*Problems:*  
incompatible with  
pigments like lead  
and copper-based; it  
blackens in contact  
with the air







## Sulfides / Cinnabar (HgS)

*Use:* red pigment; medicine, drug, food dye

*Problems:* it blackens in contact with the air



## Phosphates / Apatite ( $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{OH}, \text{F}, \text{Cl})$ )

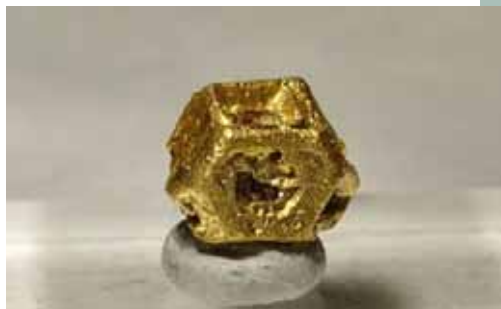
*Use:* fertilizer; gemstone; new stone consolidant





## Elements / Gold (Au)

*Use:* noble metal, decorative metal, gilding; conductive coating, money



## Elements / Silver (Ag)

*Use:* noble metal; decorative metal; printed circuits; electrical contacts; dental alloys; antibacterial; money







## French bibliography

- Schumann W., 1990 - Guide des pierres et minéraux - Ed. Delachaux et Niestlé
- <http://www.kasuku.ch/>

## English bibliography

- <http://webmineral.com/>