

V. Breakage

Breakage is the pattern a mineral takes when it breaks. Cleavage occurs when a mineral breaks along smooth, flat surfaces. Fracture occurs when a mineral breaks with rough, jagged edges.

For each of the minerals listed below determine the breakage.

1. Gypsum _____
2. Halite _____
3. Quartz _____
4. Biotite _____
5. Galena _____

VI. Density

Density can be estimated with surprising accuracy by lifting a mineral specimen in your hand. Such estimates are often called *heft*.

Heft the minerals listed below to determine density. Look at the mineral as you heft it. **On the basis of relative size and heft determine high, medium, or low density.**

1. Fluorite _____
2. Gypsum _____
3. Magnetite _____
4. Sphalerite _____
5. Galena _____

VII. Unique Properties

Unique properties can be the best indicator to identifying a mineral.

For each of the minerals listed below determine their unique property.

1. Halite _____
2. Magnetite _____
3. Talc _____
4. Graphite _____

