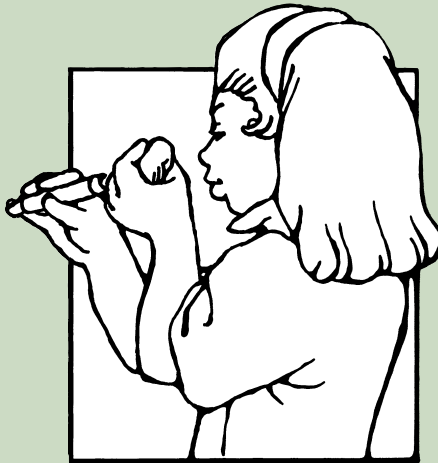


Student Instructions for Performing the Light Test



1. Pick up mineral A. Shine the penlight on it.



2. Observe how much light shines through the mineral. Some? A lot? None at all?

3. Using the terms you have agreed on in class, record results in the space labeled "Light" on your mineral profile sheet.
4. Repeat Steps 1, 2, and 3 for the other 11 minerals.



Reading Selections

Calcite

Have you ever been in a cave and seen the formations that look like icicles? They are called stalactites and stalagmites.

These are rocks that contain a lot of calcite. Calcite is one of the most important minerals found in rocks formed under water. Calcite is also found in clam shells. Sometimes calcite is white. Sometimes it is so clear that you can see through it.

One kind of clear calcite is called Iceland spar. It has an unusual property. If you placed it on these words, you would see a double image! Because of this property, calcite is used in some kinds of prisms and microscopes.

Which mineral do you think is calcite?



Muscovite



Muscovite is a shiny, silvery-white mineral that has many thin sheets, like the pages in a book. Before glass was easily available, many people in Russia used pieces of muscovite to make windows. The name “Moscow,” the capital city of Russia, comes from the Russian word for “glass.” Did you know that people from Moscow are called “Muscovites”?

Which mineral do you think is muscovite?