Rocks & Minerals Test Study Guide

Minerals

*A mineral is a solid nonliving material with a definite chemical makeup.
*Minerals are found in the crust, or outer layer, of the Earth.
*Some of the properties we use to identify minerals are: color, luster, cleavage, hardness, texture, and streak.
***luster-** the way a mineral shines, or reflects light (can be described as metallic- shiny like metal, or nonmetallic- dull or glassy)
***streak-** the color of a mineral when it is ground into powder
***hardness-** the measure of how easily a mineral can be scratched
***cleavage-** the tendency of a mineral to split easily along flat surfaces
***texture-** the way something feels
***color-** determined by the minerals chemical makeup
*Talc is the softest mineral. It leaves a white streak and is used to make powder.
*We use a STREAK TEST to determine a mineral's **streak**.
*To determine the **hardness** of a mineral, we use the **Mohs Scale**. The higher the number on the Mohs Scale, the harder the mineral. Harder minerals can scratch only minerals that are softer than them.

Rocks

*A rock is a solid material that is made up of one or more minerals.
*3 Types of Rocks: Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic
***igneous rock-** rock that forms when melted, or molten rock from deep below the Earth's surface cools and hardens
***sedimentary rock-** rock that forms when sand, particles of rock, bits of soil, and bits of once-living things are pressed together and harden
***metamorphic rock-** new rock that forms when existing rocks are changed by heat, pressure, or chemicals beneath Earth's surface over time.
*A scientist who studies rocks is called a geologist.
*The continuous series of change that a rock undergoes is known as the rock cycle.
* **sediment-** sand, particles of rock, bits of soil, and remains of once-living things

Igneous	Sedimentary	Metamorphic
-would find a lot of igneous rock near volcanoes due to the lava and magma	-most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks -always form underwater	-used to be different rocks, but were changed into new rocks by time, heat, and pressure.