



Name(s) _____

Visit the Earth Science section of the Kid Zone at The Science Spot (<http://sciencespot.net/>) to find the answers to these questions!

Site: Mineral Uses

1. Based on current consumption, it is estimated that you - and every other person in the United States - will use more than a _____ pounds of rocks, minerals and metals during your lifetime. How many pounds of the following will you use?

_____ Lead _____ Zinc _____ Copper _____ Aluminum
_____ Iron _____ Clays _____ Salt _____ Stone, sand, & gravel

2. Match each resource to its best use(s).

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| _____ Aluminum | A. Used to make "copper" pennies, brass, and nails |
| _____ Antimony | B. Used to make fertilizer, paper, film, matches, tires, and drugs |
| _____ Beryllium | C. Used to make phosphate fertilizer and is found in soft drinks |
| _____ Coal | D. Most abundant element used to make containers and deodorants |
| _____ Copper | E. Found in metal alloys for air crafts as well as emeralds |
| _____ Flint | F. Used to produce 56% of electricity in the US |
| _____ Fluorite | G. Used to make electrical wires, brass, bronze, coins, plumbing and jewelry |
| _____ Galena | H. Used to make arrowheads, spear points, and knives; may be used to start a fire |
| _____ Gold | I. Primary source of lead, used to make batteries, fishing weights, and the lead shields to protect us during X-rays |
| _____ Gypsum | J. Primary use is for "sheet rock" or wallboard |
| _____ Halite | K. Native element used to make medicine, glass, and fireworks |
| _____ Hematite | L. Used to make fluoride toothpaste, pottery, and hydrofluoric acid |
| _____ Limestone | M. Used in dentistry, medicine, jewelry, art, and computers; very malleable (can be made to be thinner than human hair) |
| _____ Lithium | N. Primary ore of iron used to produce iron for steel for automobiles, tools, and bridges |
| _____ Mica | O. Composed of calcium carbonate and is used in the construction of homes, sidewalks, bridges, and skyscrapers |
| _____ Phosphate | P. May be ground up to add "sparkle" to paints and cosmetics |
| _____ Silica | Q. Used in the manufacture of computer chips, glass, ceramics, abrasives, and sweeteners |
| _____ Silver | R. Used as food seasoning, water softener, and de-icer |
| _____ Sulfur | S. Compounds are used in ceramics and glass; may also be used for rocket propellants, batteries, and medicine |
| _____ Zinc | T. Used in photography, chemistry, jewelry, coins, mirrors, and silverware |

Site: Fireworks

1. How many tons of fireworks are used each year?
2. What minerals are used to make the following colors or special effects?

Bright Greens -

Yellows -

Silvery White -

Orange -

Deep Reds -

Gold Sparks -

Lavender -

Bright flashes -

Blues -

Silvery-white flashes -

Site: Mineral Groups

1. What are the birthstone(s) for each month?

January: _____ or _____

February: _____ or _____

March: _____ or _____

April: _____ or _____

May: _____ or _____

June: _____ or _____ or _____

July: _____ or _____

August: _____ or _____

September: _____ or _____

October: _____ or _____

November: _____ or _____

December: _____ or _____

2. Name three minerals that “glow” under ultraviolet light. What is the glow called?

3. What is a gemstone? Can all minerals be gemstones? Explain.

4. What is a mineraloid? Give 3 examples.