

Make Your Own Mineral Identification Kit

Tools for mineral identification include hand lenses (lower left), a penny for testing hardness (center), a streak plate (lower right), and an identification guidebook (top).

Stick the following items into a small bag so that you can take them with you whenever you go hunting for minerals.

1. Hand lens is helpful for identifying small mineral crystals or fossils.
2. A small, white porcelain streak plate allows you to perform streak tests.
3. A penny and a small glass plate are useful for testing hardness.
4. Kits with samples of common minerals identified are available from science and nature stores; they help you identify minerals by comparing an unknown mineral to ones that are already identified.
5. Printouts of the examples of crystal shapes from a suitable mineral identification book (e.g. The National Audubon Society's, *Field Guide to Rocks & Minerals*) allow you to identify crystal shapes of minerals.
6. Include a journal and a pencil to record where in the world you found your minerals.



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