

# Mineral ID Lab Make Up

## Identifying by Properties:

Six mineral descriptions are listed below. Identify each mineral using the mineral tables in your textbook. Your teacher will give you the page numbers.

**Mineral A:** Two sugar-cube sized, irregularly shaped pieces. Rich yellow with a metallic luster. Flat surfaces like little squares. Feels heavy and has a hardness of 6.0. Has a blackish streak. "Fool's Gold." \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral B:** Fist-sized, irregularly shaped piece. Green-black color with nonmetallic luster. Has cleavage in two directions. Has a hardness of 5-6 and has a white streak. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral C:** Nearly rectangular in shape and approximately 5 cm x 7 cm in size. Blackish in color with a shiny, but nonmetallic luster, peels off in very thin, flexible sheets and crumbles easily. Has a specific gravity of 2.8. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral D:** Egg-sized, rounded piece. Transparent pink color with a glassy luster. Shows conchoidal fracture. Has a hardness of 7 and contains silicon and oxygen. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral E:** Bluish-gray color with metallic luster. Visible cleavage in three directions. It is quite heavy, has a lead-gray streak and a hardness of 2.5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mineral F:** Irregularly-shaped, white piece with a dull luster. Shows rhombohedral (3 directions) cleavage. Has a hardness of 3, a colorless streak and fizzes when placed in weak hydrochloric acid. \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Which of the minerals was easiest for you to identify? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the minerals was the most difficult for you to identify? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Look at the description of Mineral B. Which properties given were not helpful in identifying the mineral?

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Why? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which properties were most helpful in identifying the minerals? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think it is important to use many properties to identify a mineral sample rather than a single property?

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