

balance	a tool that measures mass
basalt	a dark rock formed from cooling lava
calcite	one of the most common minerals on Earth; composed of calcium carbonate, calcite is the major mineral in such common rocks as limestone and marble
carat	a unit of weight for precious stones
circumference	the distance around a circular object
crystal	the solid form of a material that can be identified by its natural shape or pattern
deposit	earth material that has been laid down by the action of wind, water, ice, or volcanic eruption
depth	the thickness of an object
diameter	the distance across a circular object
dissolve	to mix a solid substance with a liquid until it breaks down into such small pieces that it seems to disappear

earth materials	the various solids, liquids, and gases that make up the earth
erosion	the wearing away of earth materials by water, wind, or ice
evaporate	to dry up
evidence	signs or facts on which a conclusion can be based
excavate	to dig out; to uncover by digging
feldspar	the most abundant mineral in the earth's crust; a group of related minerals that come in a variety of colors and are one of the components found in granite
fluorite	a mineral that comes in a variety of colors, can be scratched with a paper clip, and glows under an ultraviolet light source
fossil	any remains, trace, or imprint of prehistoric animal or plant life preserved in the earth's crust
gemstone	a mineral or other earth material that can be cut and polished to set in a piece of jewelry
geologist	a person who studies the earth and the materials of which it is made

geology	the scientific study of Earth's history and structure
glacier	a large, slow-moving mass of ice and snow that forms in places where the rate of snowfall is faster than the rate the snow melts
granite	an igneous rock that forms when molten rock (magma) cools deep in Earth's crust, and is mainly composed of feldspar, quartz, black mica, and hornblende
gypsum	a mineral that forms when seawater evaporates under arid conditions, gypsum is known as calcium sulfate when combined with water, and anhydrite when water is not present
hardness	a property of minerals that refers to the resistance of minerals to being scratched
hornblende	a member of a group of minerals called the amphiboles; a component of granite that has long, needlelike crystals
igneous rock	a rock that forms from molten or melted rock
limestone	a sedimentary rock that contains the mineral calcite
magma	liquid or molten rock deep in the earth; the lava ejected when a volcano erupts
magnetometer	an instrument for measuring the earth's magnetic field and its changes

marble	a rock that derives from limestone as a result of pressure, temperature, and time
mass	weight of an object
memorial	anything meant to help people remember some person or event
metamorphic rock	a rock that forms into another kind of rock by heat, pressure, or both
meteorite	any solid object that falls from outer space through a planet's atmosphere and lands on the surface
meter tape	a tool that measures linear dimensions
mica	a mineral that pulls apart in thin, flexible sheets and is one of the components of granite
microscope	an instrument with lenses that makes small objects appear larger so they can be studied
mineral	a basic earth material; a rock ingredient that cannot be physically broken down any further
monolith	a single large piece of stone

monument	a structure built to help people remember some person or event
obelisk	a tall, slender, four-sided stone pillar that has a pyramid on top
opaque	any substance or object that does not let light shine through; not transparent
outcrop	a mass of rock exposed at the Earth's surface
Plaster of Paris	the white powder that remains when gypsum is heated to drive out part of the water in it
property	something that can be observed, such as size, color, shape, or texture
prospector	a person who searches for valuable resources, such as ores, minerals, and oil
pyramid	any huge structure built with a square base and four sloping, triangular sides that meet at the top; also anything that has a similar shape
quartz	one of the most common minerals in the earth's crust; composed of silicon and oxygen and can be valued as gems in its colored forms
rock	an earth material made up of different ingredients called minerals

sandstone	a sedimentary rock mostly made of sand
sediment	solid matter such as sand or gravel deposited by wind, water, and ice
sedimentary rock	a layered rock formed by deposits of sediment
smelt	to melt or fuse ores in order to separate pure metals from impurities
texture	the surface properties of any material, especially as they apply to appearance or touch
vein	a continuous crack in rock filled with one or more minerals, especially metallic ores, differing from the surrounding rock
vinegar	a weak acid solution, called acetic acid
weigh	to find the mass of an object