

Word List – With Definitions

Word	Definition
pressure	the weight or force that is produced when something presses or pushes against something else
calcite	a mineral substance made up of calcium carbonate and found in numerous forms including limestone, chalk, and marble
fluorite	a transparent or nearly transparent mineral of different colors that consists of a fluoride of calcium and is used as a flux and in making glass
geologists	scientists who study rocks to learn about Earth's history
gypsum	a colorless mineral that consists of calcium sulfate occurring in crystals or masses and that is used especially as a soil improver and in making plaster of paris
hardness	a property of a mineral that tells how well it resists scratching
igneous	a type of rock formed when melted rock cools and hardens
limestone	a sedimentary rock made mostly of calcite
luster	the way light reflects off the surface of a freshly broken mineral
magma	melted rock below Earth's surface
metamorphic	formed when heat and pressure act over a long period of time to convert one type of rock into another, as limestone into marble
mica	any of various minerals that contain silicon and can be separated easily into thin, often transparent, sheets
obsidian	a dark natural glass formed by the cooling of lava
pyrite	a common mineral that consists of iron combined with sulfur, has a pale brass-yellow color and metallic luster, and is used especially in making sulfuric acid
quartz	a type of rock that forms when lava erupts from volcanoes
sandstone	a sedimentary rock made of sand particles cemented together
sedimentary	formed by or from sediment
shale	a rock with a fine grain formed from clay, mud, or silt

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slate	a dense, fine-grained, rock formed by compression of shales or other rocks that splits readily into thin layers or plates
talc	the softest mineral; it has a soapy feel and is used in making talcum powder