Quartz

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General Mineral Formula: SiO_2

Mineral Chemical Class: Tectosilicates

Specific Gravity: 2.6-2.7

Hardness: 7

Cleavage: Indiscernible. Seldom exhibits parting. Conchoidal Fracture.

Luster: Vitreous

Streak: White

Characteristic Color(s): Colorless, & every color of the rainbow.

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Crystal Class: triagonal division (32)

Crystal Description (common forms, habit, etc.): Hexagonal in shape. Frequently twin.

Environment (where you find the material: Ocurs in almost every single mineral environment

Common Mineral Associations (in samples, also consult text, notes: Quarts occurs in virtually all mineral environments. May be associated with almost every mineral.

Scientific Usage/Significance: Used in pressure gagues and is essential to the computer industry. Important in silicon semiconductors.

Industrial or Social Use/Significance: (typically quartz) Sand is used in the manufacture of glass. Rock crystals have many electronic uses. Oscillators in radios & watches. An abrasive for sand blasting.

Environmental Significance: Quartz does not break down easily and is quite abundant. Forms much of the earths sand.