

The Nature of Science

How can minerals be defined by their properties?

Question 1 :For each mineral you tested, which test was most helpful in identifying that particular mineral? Why?

Ans : The streak test was the most useful. A few showed a different color than I would have expected. The calcite I thought for sure was going to be gray or black.

Question 2 :For each mineral you tested, which test was least helpful in identifying that particular mineral? Why?

Ans : The streak test was the most useful. A few showed a different color than I would have expected. The calcite I thought for sure was going to be gray or black.

Question 3 :Why is streak color more reliable than mineral color as an identifying characteristic?

Ans : Some minerals have no streak color. For example Fluorite you would think it would be a purple streak. There was no streak.

Question 4 :Why do you think some minerals are easier to identify than others?

Ans : Yes. The cleavage vs fracture part was a lot more difficult to distinguish for me.