

ROCK HOUND

DESCRIPTION:

Students will prepare charts, identify various rocks and minerals and describe their characteristics.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 2

APPROXIMATE TIME: 45-60 minutes

THE COMPETITION:

1. Contestants will be allowed 30 minutes to identify as many rocks and minerals as possible from a selected group to include such rocks as:

ROCKS:

basalt	bituminous coal	conglomerate
gneiss	granite	limestone (fossil)
marble	obsidian	pumice
quartzite	sandstone	schist
scoria	shale	slate

MINERALS:

calcite	copper	feldspar (pink)
galena	graphite	hematite
gypsum	halite	sulfur
pyrite	quartz	lodestone/magnetite
talc	mica-muscovite & biotite	

2. Contestants will also be asked questions about the rocks or minerals, such as their color, luster, relative hardness (using Mohs Scale of Hardness), reaction to vinegar, odor, texture, and common uses.
3. Contestants **MUST** bring their completed charts with them to the tournament. The charts may be used in the identification process and to aid in answering any questions. Copies of these charts should be submitted with the answer sheets at the end of the time period.

SCORING:

Each rock or mineral identified and each question answered correctly will count one (1) point. The contestant with the highest total score will be the winner. In case of ties, contestants with the most complete and accurate charts will be the winners.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Rocks and minerals will be limited to the ones listed above.
2. Scoring will be as specified above (20 - 25 rocks and minerals to identify and 5+ questions)
3. Any chart approved by the team's coach is acceptable.
4. There will be 5+ questions covering the three classes of rocks (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic), the difference between rocks and minerals and identification properties. Sample questions:
 - a. How is igneous rock formed?
 - b. List a metamorphic rock and the rock from which it was formed.
 - c. Identify this specimen and tell if it is a rock or mineral.
 - d. True or False - minerals are made from rocks.
 - e. Uses.
5. Students will be given testing materials to use during the test if needed. Ex. nail, vinegar, glass plate, penny

MAKE YOUR OWN CHART OR ASK THE EVENT CAPTAIN FOR A COPY OF ONE TO COMPLETE BEFORE THE COMPETITION.