

Review Questions Topic 7: Rocks and Minerals

Compare and contrast synthetic minerals, minerals, and mineral simulants

What are three common minerals that are also produced synthetically

Other than for jewelry, what is the most common industrial use of synthetic minerals?

What is the connection between diamonds, cubic zirconia, zirconium dioxide, and baddeleyite? Explain

What mineral is “hematite” a simulant of?

Explain the four major natural environments in which minerals form

What is the definition of a solid? How do other states of matter compare?

Why is “glass” not a mineral?

Define “organic chemistry”

Provide three examples of crystalline solids that are organic (and therefore NOT minerals)

Can the elements hydrogen and carbon be found in true minerals?

In terms of how geologists see it, what is the difference between “organic” and “biogenic”?

Can a mineral vary in the percentage of various elements it contains? Explain

Define: outcrop, boulder, pebble, bedrock, float

State the definition of a rock as a geologist would define it

What is the difference between an interlocking versus cemented texture?

What is meant by a “clastic” rock?

Explain the difference between crystallization/precipitation and sedimentation/lithification

What are the two substances that igneous rocks solidify from?

What is the difference between a clastic and a chemical sedimentary rock?

What do geologists call rocks that have been altered physically and chemically through the application of heat and pressure?

What do geologists call a specimen of sufficient size to sample and take home to the lab?

Explain the steps involved in making a thin section in the laboratory

What do geologists call the special microscope they use to study thin sections?