

# Minerals: Every Day & Every Way

Minerals, mined from or on the soil, are a natural resource we use **EVERY** day. Minerals are mined from the soil all over the world. For example:



Have you used a cell phone in the last 24 hours? Cell phones contain the mineral coltan. Coltan is mined in the eastern Congo.

Have you had a soft drink lately? Most of the aluminum for the can comes from Australia.

Have you flipped a switch or pressed an “on” button? If so you used copper. Copper is used in wiring and electronics because of its high conductivity. Most of the world’s copper supply is mined in Chile. It is also mined in the United States; Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Montana and Nevada.

Iron ore is a mineral used to make steel. If you’ve ridden in a vehicle today you have made use of iron ore. Iron ore is mined in Minnesota and Michigan.

Listed below are several of the minerals mined in the United States and some of the states they are mined in. Circle any of the minerals you have made use of or came in contact with.

| <b>Mineral</b> | <b>Product/Use</b> | <b>U.S. Mine Locations</b>  |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| Beryl          | x-ray technology   | Utah  |
| Boron          | laundry detergent  | California  |
| Clay           | bricks & tiles     | Georgia, Hawaii, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina  |
| Copper         | electronics        | Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, Utah  |
| Feldspar       | glass              | Connecticut   |
| Flourite       | toothpaste         | Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas |
| Gypsum         | sheet rock (walls) | Iowa  |
| Iron Ore       | cars/trucks        | Michigan, Minnesota   |
| Lithium        | batteries          | North Carolina  |
| Magnetite      | forks & spoons     | Arkansas, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania  |
| Molybdenite    | jet engines        | Colorado, Montana, New Mexico   |
| Mica           | auto tires & paint | North Carolina  |
| Quartz         | computers          | Arkansas  |
| Salt           | seasoning          | Louisiana, New York, Kansas, Ohio, West Virginia  |
| Trona          | glass              | Wyoming   |
| Zircon         | jewelry            | New Jersey  |
| Zinc           | batteries          | Alaska, Idaho   |



Write the first letter of each mineral in the state(s) where it is mined.

What effect do you think mining has on the soil?

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Can you think of any ways to reduce the need for mining?

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How many minerals were used to make your computer?

- A. 7
- B. 25
- C. 66

What minerals make up more than 50% of Earth's crust?

- A. feldspars
- B. clays
- C. copper

Circle the minerals we need in our diets.

- A. Calcium
- B. Sulfur
- C. Potassium

What mineral is the hardest substance on earth?

- A. diamond
- B. iron ore
- C. zinc

What mineral was so valuable in the past that it was traded ounce for ounce for gold?

- A. quartz
- B. salt
- C. beryl

Minerals are responsible for the colors in?

- A. gemstones
- B. fireworks
- C. both A & B