

Mineral Greeting Cards

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Grades: K-8

Time: 1/2 to 1 hour

Objectives:

To practice close observation of a mineral by drawing it; to learn what products are made from that mineral; to practice use of creative language arts, and drawing.

Materials:

- Easy-to-draw, brightly colored mineral samples, e.g., amethyst, fluorite, pyrite, galena, garnet, sulfur
- Pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, markers
- Glue sticks and/or tape
- 8.5 x 11 paper
- Scissors
- Magazines and catalogs of products

Procedure:

1. Fold paper into quarters: across (8.5 inches), then again in half across (5.5 inches).
2. Turn folded paper so the folded edges are on the left and top. Your greeting card will be a rectangle 4.25 inches across and 5.5 inches down.
3. On the front at the top write the name of the mineral. Your handwriting should be beautiful, because this is a greeting card to the mineral.
4. Draw and color a picture of the mineral below its name.
5. On the inside of the card on the left, write a verse or a poem, or a joke, or a note to the mineral, and sign it with your name.
6. On the right side, list a few products that might be made from the mineral, and glue or tape a picture of at least one of those products cut out from a magazine or catalog.
7. Share the cards with other class members, or let class members dress up as a mineral and have students present their greeting cards to the mineral. Post the cards in the classroom.

For Older Students

1. Library research project on the mineral, so that the card also contains where the mineral was "born" and how it came to be in the classroom, as well as more detailed information on products that are made from the mineral.
2. If produced locally, field trips to the mine, quarry, factory might be arranged, or a representative from the company might come to class.