

Mohs scale of hardness

This scale was produced by a German mineralogist Frederick Mohs in 1812.



1. **Very Soft.** Crumbles. Can be scratched with your fingernail (2.2)
2. **Soft.** Can be scratched with your fingernail. (2.2)
3. **Soft.** Can be scratched with copper penny. (3.5)
4. **Quite hard.** Can be scratched with a nail. (5.2)
5. **Hard.** Can be scratched with a nail. (5.2)
6. **Hard.** A penknife will scratch up to 6.
7. **Very hard.** A mineral of more than 6 will scratch glass.
8. **Very hard.** Can be scratched by a Ruby.
9. **Extremely hard.** Used for cutting, grinding and sanding.
10. **Very very hard.** Diamond is used to cut all minerals.

Tips

- When you scratch take a close look at the scratch line which usually looks white.
- Harder minerals can scratch softer minerals.
- Don't press too hard.



Please remember to recycle this activity

Look at this list of minerals. Write by the side what the mineral is like. Find out where would you find it?

Diamond (10) _____

Fluorite (4) _____

Topaz (8) _____

Quartz (7) _____

Talc (1) _____

Calcite (3) _____

Name a mineral which is very hard? _____

Name one which is very soft? _____

What is quartz? _____

Is calcite soft or hard? _____

What do you think they use talc for? _____

