

Instructions for Mineral Label

(see sample label at the end of the instructions)

(Recommended type: Arial Regular 12 font; smaller font size may be used to save space)

1. Mineral Specimen #

Sequential numbering of your specimens: 1, 2, 3, etc.

2. Common Name:

Worth 1 point. What is the common name of your specimen? For example: quartz, pyrite, malachite, etc.

3. Hardness:

Worth 1 point. Minerals have a number of physical properties that are used to distinguish them. Hardness is one of those properties. Hardness is scaled from 1 to 10 on the Mohs hardness scale. Look up the hardness your mineral specimen should have. You can determine if your mineral is what you think it is by testing its hardness and comparing it to the Mohs scale.

4. Chemical Formula:

Worth 1 point. A mineral has its own distinct chemical composition, which can be written as a formula. Look up your mineral and find out what its formula is. For example, quartz is SiO_2 .

5. Source:

Worth 1 point. First, provide information about the source of your specimen. Either underline Found, Purchased, or Gift, or delete the two sources that do not apply.

Second, in the space below, provide a short description of your specimen under each category, as shown in these examples. You may want to choose a smaller font size or let the Word program insert another line as you type. An extra point will be awarded for specimens that were found (read the Geology Division (6028), 14 c for more details and read the specifications that are written for each of the classes). Also read below on how to address your labels.

a. Found Purchased Gift

If you found your specimen, then provide brief information about where you found it.

1. Where you found it (for example: back yard or quarry or outcrop or landscaping, etc.).
2. Location (City, State or City, Country).

b. Found Purchased Gift

If you purchased your specimen, then provide brief information about where you purchased it, and if available, more information about where the specimen originally came from (where the store or shop found it). For example, you may have bought the specimen from a store in Lexington, Kentucky, but the specimen was originally collected in Arizona. Knowing where the specimen is originally from is an important part of mineral collecting.

1. Where it was purchased (for example: rock shop or landscape shop or Internet purchase, etc.).

Provide the original location of your specimen (many purchased specimens will list where the specimen was originally found): City, State or City, Country.

c. Found Purchased Gift

If you were given the specimen by someone else, then provide brief information about how you got it.

1. Who gave you the specimen (for example: from friend or from grandmother). If the person who gave you the specimen bought it on a trip and knows where it was bought, then fill out a Purchased label as instructed. If the person who gave you the specimen found it, answer the next question.
2. Ask the person who gave you the specimen to provide you with a location, or if the location is not known, then narrow down a possible location. For example: Grandmother bought it or found in (City, State or City, Country).

6. Use(s):

Worth 1 point. Look up a major use(s) for this type of rock. If at all possible, try not to write down collections or healing as uses (some rocks are tumbled or polished and used in jewelry, which would be fine to use as an example). Look up uses for your rock. You may be surprised to discover what different rocks are used for. You do not need to list all of the uses for your rock. Try to use the available space on your label.

Mineral Label Example

Mineral specimen #1

Common name: Calcite

Hardness: 3

Chemical formula: CaCO₂

Source: Found Purchased Gift

Outcrop, Lexington, Kentucky

or

Source: Found Purchased Gift

Down To Earth Rock Shop, Lockport, New York,
from eastern Europe

or

Source: Found Purchased Gift

Down To Earth Rock Shop, Lockport, New York,
location uncertain

or

Source: Found Purchased Gift

Cousin, from Qaxaca, Mexico

or

Source: Found Purchased Gift

Cousin, from Qaxaca, Mexico, location unknown

Use(s): Cement, optical lenses, medicines