

## Minerals and Rocks Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Minerals and Rocks trivia highlights the building blocks of Earth, from crystal structures and common rock types to the geologic forces that create and transform them. Blending science, natural history, and a few unexpected facts, it offers a family-friendly way to test what you know about the ground beneath your feet.

### HARD MINERALS AND ROCKS TRIVIA

1. About 541 million years ago, which geologic period began?

Answer: The Cambrian Period began about 541 million years ago.

2. Which period came to an end about 66 million years ago?

Answer: The Cretaceous ended about 66 million years ago.

3. Name Earth's earliest eon.?

Answer: The Hadean is the earliest eon in Earth's history.

4. Which interval began after the end of the last major ice age?

Answer: The Holocene began after the end of the last major ice age.

5. What ultramafic rock makes up most of Earth's mantle?

Answer: Earth's mantle is made mostly of ultramafic rock called peridotite.

6. Named after a South African river, which ultramafic volcanic rock fits that clue?

Answer: Komatiite is an ultramafic volcanic rock named after the Komati River in South Africa.

7. The Moon's bright highlands are dominated by which rock type?

Answer: Anorthosite is the rock type that dominates the Moon's bright highlands.

8. If the metal you want is aluminum, which principal ore should you be looking for?

Answer: Bauxite is the principal ore of aluminum.

9. Which mineral is the chief ore mineral of tin?

Answer: Cassiterite is the chief ore mineral of tin.

10. Which mineral serves as the principal ore mineral of lead?

Answer: Galena is the principal ore mineral of lead.

11. For chromium extraction, which mineral is the main ore?

Answer: Chromite is the main ore mineral of chromium.

12. Which mineral is noted as an important ore mineral of titanium?

Answer: Ilmenite is an important ore mineral of titanium.

13. Named after Franz Xaver von Wulfen, which lead molybdate mineral matches that description?

Answer: Wulfenite is a lead molybdate mineral named after Franz Xaver von Wulfen.

14. Which mineral is widely used in uranium-lead dating because it can preserve very old ages?

Answer: Zircon is widely used in uranium-lead dating because it can preserve very old ages.

#### FUNNY MINERALS AND ROCKS TRIVIA

1. Which shiny-sounding impostor is usually pyrite rather than actual gold?

Answer: Fool's gold

2. What mineral can grow crystals that look like a pile of tiny metallic swords from a fantasy prop closet?

Answer: Stibnite

3. Despite sounding like a flower shop item, what rosette-shaped crystal growth is usually made of gypsum or baryte?

Answer: Desert rose

4. What colorful trade name is commonly used for bornite, the rock that seems to have raided a peacock's wardrobe?

Answer: Peacock ore

5. Apache tears are small rounded pieces of what volcanic glass?

Answer: Obsidian

6. If a stone seems to contain tiny desert sunsets and horizon lines, which material is famous for landscape-like patterns?

Answer: Picture jasper

7. Which variety of obsidian has white patches of cristobalite that make it look like someone flicked snow at it?

Answer: Snowflake obsidian

8. What do you call rocks that got the spa treatment by being polished smooth in a rotating barrel?

Answer: Tumbled stones

9. True or false: A thunder egg is a true egg laid by a very geological bird.?

Answer: False

10. What name is given to manganese patterns on rock that can resemble tiny painted trees, as if nature doodled a forest?

Answer: Dendrites

11. Which fossil material wins the prize for least glamorous origin because it is fossilized dung?

Answer: Coprolite

12. What are the iron-rich stone concretions found in Utah that sound like they should be in a toy bag rather than a rock shop?

Answer: Moqui marbles

13. Which nickname refers to large twinned crystals of staurolite, even though they are definitely not a snack?

Answer: Brazil nuts

#### FUN MINERALS AND ROCKS TRIVIA

1. Who is widely known as one of the founders of crystallography?

Answer: René Just Haüy

2. Which scientist is often nicknamed the father of modern geology?

Answer: James Hutton

3. Back in 1556, who published the landmark work De re metallica?

Answer: Georgius Agricola

4. Who discovered uranium in 1789?

Answer: Martin Heinrich Klaproth

5. At the Mining Academy in Freiberg, which influential teacher lectured students about the Earth?

Answer: Abraham Gottlob Werner

6. Who became the first woman hired by the U.S. Geological Survey as a geologist?

Answer: Florence Bascom

7. Which geologist pioneered the idea of metamorphic zones in Scotland?

Answer: George Barrow

8. Who was the Canadian geologist famous for experimental work on rocks under pressure?

Answer: Frank Dawson Adams

9. Which scientist proposed that the Moon formed after a giant impact?

Answer: Reginald Aldworth Daly

10. Which famous lab flame name belongs to a scientist who also studied volcanic gases?

Answer: Robert Bunsen

11. Who discovered Earth's solid inner core in 1936?

Answer: Inge Lehmann

12. True or false: Nicolaus Steno stated that younger sedimentary layers usually lie above older ones?

Answer: True

13. Which geologist gave us Bowen's reaction series, describing how minerals crystallize

from magma?

Answer: Norman L. Bowen

#### MINERALS AND ROCKS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What is California's official state gem?

Answer: Benitoite is California's official state gem.

2. Which massive sandstone monolith stands in central Australia?

Answer: Uluru is the massive sandstone monolith in central Australia.

3. Ayers Rock is another widely used name for what landmark?

Answer: Ayers Rock is another widely used name for Uluru.

4. In Wyoming, which famous formation is made of igneous rock?

Answer: Devils Tower is the igneous rock formation in Wyoming.

5. Which Italian place is renowned for its white marble quarries?

Answer: Carrara in Italy is renowned for white marble quarries.

6. Much of which famous valley is surrounded by granite rock?

Answer: Much of Yosemite Valley is surrounded by granite rock.

7. What rock is traditionally associated with the Mayflower Pilgrims' landing site?

Answer: Plymouth Rock is the traditional landing site associated with the Mayflower Pilgrims.

8. Which place in South Africa became famous for diamond mining?

Answer: Kimberley became famous for diamond mining.

9. Ontario's Sudbury Basin is famous for large deposits of which metal?

Answer: Ontario's Sudbury Basin is famous for large nickel deposits.

10. What is the name of the world's largest salt flat in Bolivia?

Answer: The world's largest salt flat in Bolivia is Salar de Uyuni.

11. If a recipe says 'halite,' what common name might you hear instead?

Answer: Rock salt is another common name for halite.

12. Ruby and sapphire are both gem varieties of which mineral?

Answer: Ruby and sapphire are both gem varieties of corundum.

#### EASY MINERALS AND ROCKS TRIVIA

1. On the Mohs scale, what hardness number does quartz have?

Answer: 7

2. Which mineral is the natural form of common table salt?

Answer: Halite

3. Which soft mineral can be scratched by a fingernail?

Answer: Gypsum

4. What mineral often grows in cube-shaped crystals?

Answer: Fluorite

5. Which mineral fizzes in dilute acid because it contains carbonate?

Answer: Calcite

6. "Fool's gold" is a nickname for what mineral?

Answer: Pyrite

7. Which rock is actually volcanic glass?

Answer: Obsidian

8. What rock can float on water because it is full of gas bubbles?

Answer: Pumice

9. What rock forms when limestone is changed by heat and pressure?

Answer: Marble

10. Granite belongs to which rock group?

Answer: Igneous rock

11. Which rock is made from sand-sized grains?

Answer: Sandstone

12. What rock commonly forms from shale during metamorphism?

Answer: Slate

13. Which natural mineral ranks as the hardest on the Mohs scale?

Answer: Diamond

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/minerals-and-rocks>