

Chapter 02 - Atoms, Elements, and Minerals

Chapter 02
Atoms, Elements, and Minerals

True / False Questions

1. A mineral is defined as a crystalline solid that is naturally occurring, has a specific chemical composition and forms through geologic processes.

TRUE

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

2. The innermost energy level in the standard model of an atom is full when it possesses eight electrons.

FALSE

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Topic: Earth Materials

3. The atomic mass number is equal to the number of neutrons in an atom.

FALSE

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Topic: Earth Materials

4. The atomic number of an element is equal to the number of protons in each atom.

TRUE

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

5. Rocks are defined as naturally-formed aggregates of minerals or mineral-like substances.

TRUE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials*

6. The number of neutrons in an atom controls the chemical behavior of an element.

FALSE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials*

7. Silica is a term for oxygen combined with silicon.

TRUE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials*

8. It is clear that exposure to white asbestos causes cancer among non-smoking asbestos workers.

FALSE

*Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
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9. Both graphite and diamond are made of carbon.

TRUE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials*

10. All of the most common rock-forming minerals in Earth's crust are silicate minerals.

TRUE

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11. Clay minerals are very common in the Earth's upper mantle.

FALSE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
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12. Calcite (calcium carbonate) is the most common non-silicate mineral in the Earth's crust.

TRUE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
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13. Non-silicate minerals are more abundant in the deeper parts of Earth's crust than in the crust as a whole.

FALSE

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Topic: Earth Materials*

14. The quality and intensity of light that is reflected from the surface of a mineral is termed luster.

TRUE

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Topic: Earth Materials*

15. A mineral specimen with a Mohs hardness of 5 can scratch a mineral specimen with a hardness of 3.

TRUE

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16. Minerals that have the same chemical composition but have different crystalline structures exhibit polymorphism

TRUE

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Topic: Earth Materials*

17. Color is the least reliable physical property in mineral identification.

TRUE

*Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials*

18. Diamond has no cleavage.

FALSE

*Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials*

19. Specific gravity is the ratio of a mass of a substance to the mass of an equal volume of air.

FALSE

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Topic: Earth Materials*

20. The crystal form of a mineral is a set of faces that have a definite geometric relationship to one another.

TRUE

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Topic: Earth Materials*

Multiple Choice Questions

21. In order for a particular type of material to be classified as a mineral, it must ____.

- A. be a solid
- B. occur naturally
- C. have a crystalline structure
- D. have a definite chemical composition
- E.** All of the answers are correct.

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Topic: Earth Materials*

22. The atomic number of an element equals the number of _____ in each atom.

- A. electrons
- B. neutrons
- C.** protons
- D. Answers neutrons and protons are both correct; answer a is not correct.
- E. Answers electrons, neutrons and protons are all correct.

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23. The atomic mass number of an atom is the total number of ____ in the atom.

- A. electrons
- B. neutrons
- C. protons
- D.** protons and neutrons
- E. protons, neutrons, and electrons

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24. _____ of an element are atoms containing different numbers of neutrons but the same number of protons.

- A. Ions
- B. Classes
- C. Particles
- D.** Isotopes
- E. Varieties

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25. The atomic mass number of common oxygen is 16 because it has ____ protons and ____ neutrons.

- A. 7; 9
- B.** 8; 8
- C. 9; 7
- D. 5; 11
- E. 10; 6

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26. Carbon-14 has eight ____.

- A. protons
- B. nuclei
- C. neutrons
- D. isotopes
- E. atoms

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

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27. The isotope composition of _____ in foraminifera shells from sediment cores are used to determine climate change in Earth history.

- A. oxygen
- B. carbon
- C. uranium
- D. lead
- E. helium

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

Topic: Climate, Weather, and Their Influences on Geology

Topic: Earth Materials

28. The two most abundant elements in Earth's crust are ____.

- A. iron and magnesium
- B. carbon and hydrogen
- C. carbon and oxygen
- D. hydrogen and oxygen
- E. oxygen and silicon

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

Topic: Earth Materials

29. When seawater evaporates, its sodium and chlorine are electronically attracted to one another and crystallize into ____.

- A. quartz
- B. halite**
- C. clay
- D. calcite
- E. hematite

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30. The mineral ____ reacts with weak hydrochloric acid to produce carbon dioxide gas, i.e., it effervesces (fizzes) in dilute acid.

- A. calcite**
- B. feldspar
- C. quartz
- D. biotite
- E. amphibole

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31. The _____ group and the ____ group are sheet silicates characterized by one direction of cleavage.

- A. amphibole; pyroxene
- B. feldspar; quartz
- C. olivine; plagioclase
- D. mica; clay**
- E. carbonate; sulfide

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Topic: Earth Materials

32. Two examples of framework silicates are _____ and _____.

- A. calcite; dolomite
- B. olivine; pyroxene
- C. quartz; feldspar**
- D. biotite; muscovite
- E. amphibole; olivine

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33. _____ is the ability of a mineral to break, when struck or split, along preferred planar directions.

- A. Cleavage**
- B. Crystal form
- C. Facets
- D. Planes
- E. Form

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Topic: Earth Materials

34. A silica tetrahedron is composed of four atoms of the element ____ and one atom of ____.

- A. silicon; aluminum
- B. silicon; oxygen
- C. silicon; iron
- D. oxygen; silicon**
- E. aluminum; silicon

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35. The common mineral ____ is an example of an isolated silica tetrahedron structure.

- A. amphibole
- B. feldspar
- C. olivine**
- D. pyroxene
- E. mica (biotite, muscovite, etc.)

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36. Five of the six minerals collectively known as asbestos contain single chains of silica tetrahedral and belong to the _____.

- A. amphiboles
- B. feldspars
- C. olivines
- D. pyroxenes**
- E. micas

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials

37. The _____ group of minerals is characterized by two parallel chains of silica tetrahedra in their structure.

- A. amphibole**
- B. feldspar
- C. olivine
- D. pyroxene
- E. mica (biotite, muscovite, etc.)

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Topic: Earth Materials

38. The _____ group of minerals are sheet silicates.

- A. amphibole
- B. feldspar
- C. olivine
- D. pyroxene
- E.** mica

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39. Non-silicate minerals include the halides like _____.

- A. calcite
- B.** halite
- C. magnetite
- D. pyrite
- E. gypsum

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Topic: Earth Materials

40. The mineral ____ is an example of a native element.

- A. quartz
- B. feldspar
- C. calcite
- D.** graphite
- E. halite

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Topic: Earth Materials

41. A pulverized mineral (usually on a piece of white unglazed porcelain) gives a color called its _____, that is usually more reliable than the color of the specimen itself.

- A. dust
- B. chroma
- C. streak**
- D. smear
- E. powder

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials

42. The softest mineral on Mohs' hardness scale is _____.

- A. gypsum
- B. talc**
- C. diamond
- D. quartz
- E. mica

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Topic: Earth Materials

43. What is the special property of the mineral halite?

- A. It has 5 directions of cleavage.
- B. It has a hardness of -3.
- C. It can transmit electricity.
- D. It tastes like salt.**
- E. It has an extremely high melting temperature.

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials

44. ____ has the property of generating electricity when squeezed in a certain crystallographic direction.

- A. Copper
- B. Mica
- C. Amphibole
- D. Gold
- E.** Quartz

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

45. The hardest mineral has a hardness of ____ on Mohs' relative hardness scale.

- A. 1
- B.** 10
- C. 100
- D. 1000
- E. 10000

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

46. Calcite has ____ direction of cleavage.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C.** 3
- D. 4
- E. 6

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

47. In some minerals the bonds are equally strong in all directions, therefore they have no cleavage but instead _____ along irregular surfaces that are commonly curved.

- A. luminesce
- B. chip
- C. flatten
- D. bend
- E.** fracture

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Topic: Earth Materials

48. The third most abundant element in the Earth's crust is _____; it is more common than iron.

- A. magnesium
- B.** aluminum
- C. calcium
- D. fluorine
- E. tin

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

49. The mineral ____ is strongly magnetic.

- A. calcite
- B. pyrite
- C.** magnetite
- D. magnesite
- E. quartz

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

50. _____ and sapphire are both varieties of the common mineral corundum.

- A. Emerald
- B. Turquoise
- C.** Ruby
- D. Beryl
- E. Peridot

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

Topic: Earth Materials

51. _____ is an expansive (swells when wet) clay mineral.

- A. Quartz
- B. Olivine
- C. Pyroxene
- D.** Montmorillonite
- E. Mica

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

Topic: Earth Materials

52. _____ is the most common element in the Earth's crust.

- A.** Oxygen
- B. Iron
- C. Magnesium
- D. Hydrogen
- E. Fluorine

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

53. Some minerals have the same chemical composition but different crystal structures, a phenomenon termed _____.

- A. alteration
- B. recrystallization
- C. metamorphism
- D. isotopes
- E.** polymorphism

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials

54. _____, a Danish naturalist, was the first to note that the angle between two adjacent faces of a crystal of quartz is always exactly the same.

- A. Einstein
- B.** Steno
- C. Plummer
- D. McGearry
- E. Carlson

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember
Topic: Earth Materials

55. Specific gravity is the ratio of the mass of a mineral to the mass of an equal volume of ____.

- A.** liquid water
- B. solid water
- C. quartz
- D. diamond
- E. air

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand
Topic: Earth Materials

56. Plagioclase feldspar commonly exhibits __, straight, parallel lines on the flat surfaces of one of the two cleavage directions.

- A. parallelograms
- B. grooves
- C. lamitations
- D.** striations
- E. laminations

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57. ____ elements make up 98% of the Earth's crust.

- A. Fourteen
- B. Ninety-two
- C. Two
- D. Twenty
- E.** Eight

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58. _____ are the smallest electrically neutral assemblies of matter and energy that we know of in the universe.

- A. Isotopes
- B.** Atoms
- C. Ions
- D. Electrons
- E. Protons

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Chapter 02 - Atoms, Elements, and Minerals

59. The most common minerals in the Earth's crust are the _____.

- A. silicates
- B. carbonates
- C. halides
- D. sulfides
- E. sulfates

Bloom's Level: 1. Remember

Topic: Earth Materials

60. On Mohs' scale of hardness your fingernail has a value of _____.

- A. 12
- B. 5
- C. 2½
- D. 6½
- E. 9

Bloom's Level: 2. Understand

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