



UK Critical Minerals
Intelligence Centre

CRITICAL MINERALS

KS3 lesson 1 resource sheet: minerals in everyday life



British
Geological
Survey



Department for
Business & Trade

KS3 activity 1: minerals in everyday life

Photograph	Statement	Mineral name
Salt 	Sodium chloride comes from the mineral halite	Halite
Toothpaste 	Fluoride helps to reduce tooth decay	Fluorite
Brass padlock 	Copper and zinc combined make the alloy brass	Chalcopyrite (copper) and sphalerite (zinc)
Aluminium foil 	Aluminium is a very light metal	Bauxite
Drill bits 	Tungsten and steel (iron) are added to improve hardness	Wolframite (tungsten) and haematite (iron)

Photograph	Component	Mineral name
Water pipe 	Copper is used to make pipes	Chalcopyrite
Car battery 	Lead and zinc are used as electrodes inside batteries	Galena (lead) and sphalerite (zinc)
Toilet 	Porcelain is a ceramic material processed through high levels of heat	Kaolinite
Pencil 	Graphite is mixed with clay to form the pencil 'lead'	Graphite
Wristwatch 	Quartz is used in the electronics to keep it accurate	Quartz
Cement 	Limestone and clay are the main components of this product	Calcite (calcium carbonate) and kaolinite (clay)

Photograph	Component	Mineral name
Glass 	This is made from silica, which is composed of small grains of quartz crystals, commonly known as sand	Quartz
Talcum powder 	Talc is one of the softest minerals	Talc
Kitchen utensils 	Steel (iron), nickel and chromium are combined to make an alloy that is used to make eating utensils	Haematite (iron), pentlandite (nickel) and chromite (chromium)