

SECTION 3: USING THE STREAK TEST TO IDENTIFY ROCKS

LAB

INTRODUCTION

Rocks can also be classified by what color streak they leave. For example, Mica and quartz both leave a white streak when rubbed against a ceramic tile. Malachite will look pale green and sulfur will leave a yellow streak. The rock color is not always the streak color. Two other properties can be used to classify rocks: luster and cleavage. Luster describes a rock's shine. Cleavage is whether a rock is layered or flat planes with smooth surfaces.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

- S4.A.2.2** Identify appropriate instruments for a specific task and describe the information the instrument can provide.
- S4.C.1.1** Describe observable physical properties of matter.
- S4.A.3.3** Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.
- S4.D.1.2** Identify the types and uses of Earth's resources.

PURPOSE

Students will study the luster, cleavage, and streak color of various rocks. Then, they will use their observations to classify the rocks.

MATERIALS

For Each Pair of Students

1 tray	1 glazed tile
magnifier	chalk*
pencil (graphite) *	student worksheet*
1 galena	1 hematite
1 pyrite	1 sulfur
1 shale	1 feldspar

*Teacher provides items marked with **

