**MOST** minerals are **compounds** (a chemical combination of 2 or more elements), while **rocks** are mixtures of minerals and sometimes organic matter.

**CHARACTERISTICS** of minerals (explain each):

I – inorganic (never alive)

N-**natural--made by earth**

S- **solid (at room temp)**

C- Compound (some are elements)

C--**crystals**

C-

8 Ways to **IDENTIFY**

 minerals:

1 – **hardness--scratching**

2 – **color** (not very reliable)

3 – **streak color (streak plate)**

4 – **luster**

5 – **density**

6 – **crystal shape**

7 – **cleavage or fracture** (how it breaks)

8 – **special properties**

1. Moh’s **Hardness** Scale (scratch):
* **talc**  = softest

 mineral (1)

* **diamond** = hardest

 mineral (10)

 (your fingernail=  **2.5** and

 glass =  **6** )

 2 main types of **luster** (how the

 mineral reflects light):

 1 – **metallic**  (shiny)

 2 –  **nonmetallic**

 (glassy/vitreous, dull, waxy)

How a mineral breaks:

1. **cleavage \_** –smooth
2. **fracture\_\_\_** --jagged

**SPECIAL** properties:

1 –fluorescence

2 – **magnetic**

3 –radioactive

4 – **fizzes in acid**

5-malleable, smell, soapy, greasy

![C:\Users\mkd13688\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\68381OAX\MC900241311[1].wmf]()6 – **double refraction**

**A ROCK is a mixture**

**of minerals.**