Everyday we use comes from plants, animals or minerals. If it can’t be grown, it has to be mined. There are 2,500 mining operations in New York State that get permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation. Over 25 different minerals are mined in our state.

Mines can be underground or on the surface. After mineral deposits are removed from the surface, companies must restore the land. This work includes grading, erosion control and plantings. It is called mined land reclamation. The finished product may be used for community recreation, nature trails or wildlife habitat.

Meet the Minerals!

Use these minerals to complete the sentences.

1. We call them lead pencils, but the points are really made of _________ and _________.
2. Baby powder is made of __________, which is the softest mineral.
3. You’ll find __________, __________, and __________ in glass.
4. Sandpaper is made from __________, which is New York’s State gem.
5. The sparkles in toothpaste are made from __________.
6. Wallboard is made from ________________.
7. Roof shingles are colored by _____________ _____________.
8. Porcelain toilets are made from ____________.