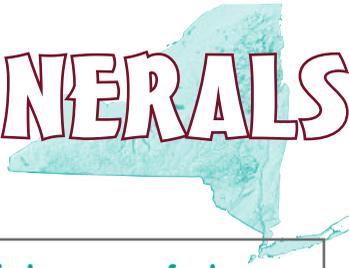


COMMON MINERALS



Sometimes the same mineral can look very different. This is because of where and how it was formed, and what other chemicals are in it. Most minerals can be found in a variety of colors.

HALITE (SALT)

New York ranks third among the states in the production of salt. It is mined mostly in the central and western parts of the state. Common uses include table salt, road de-icing, and chemical and food manufacturing.



WOLLASTONITE

New York is the world's leading producer of this mineral, which is found in the Adirondacks. It is used in ceramic tile, paint, dental cleaning, match heads, brake linings and car bumpers.



QUARTZ

Some quartz, called "Herkimer diamonds," make the Mohawk Valley famous among rock collectors. Quartz is used in electronics, insulation and precision optics.



OF NEW YORK STATE



SPHALERITE (ZINC)

New York ranks among the top five states in the production of zinc, which is common in the Adirondacks and Catskills. It is combined with copper to make brass. Sphalerite is found in nails, plumbing pipes, tires, fireworks, coins and pharmaceutical products.



DOLOMITE

Found throughout New York, it is one of the most commonly mined minerals in the state. It is used in building stone and highway paving.



GARNET

One of the largest garnet mines in world is located in the Adirondacks. Garnet is New York's state gem. It is used for making sandpaper and jewelry, as well as stone-washing jeans.



Did you know...

Geology is the study of the earth and its history. Two of its divisions are mineralogy (the study of minerals) and petrology (the study of rocks).