

# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Read the captions in the booklet. Using the labels beside each sticker, choose the sticker that best fits in the space available.

Don't forget that your stickers can be stuck down and peeled off again. If you are careful, you can use your stickers more than once.

When you have filled all the pages of the booklet, use the leftover stickers to decorate the opposite page, and color in the book's title.

You may want to write your name on the title page. After all, you designed the pages yourself!

You can also use your stickers to make your own book, or for project work at school.

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# Rocks and minerals



Our world is made up of many different rocks and minerals. All

rocks are made up of combinations of one or more minerals. A mineral is a chemical

compound that occurs naturally. Minerals include precious stones and ores, which are

minerals containing metals. Sometimes minerals form crystals. Deep heat inside the earth melts

the minerals in rocks, which later cool and

harden into new structures called crystals.

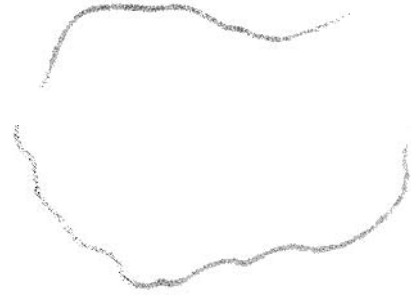
Crystals are often transparent, with smooth,

shiny surfaces.



## In the habit

The general shape of a crystal is called its habit. Studying the shape of a crystal helps identify it. Like most minerals, calcite occurs in groups of many crystals – these are called aggregates.



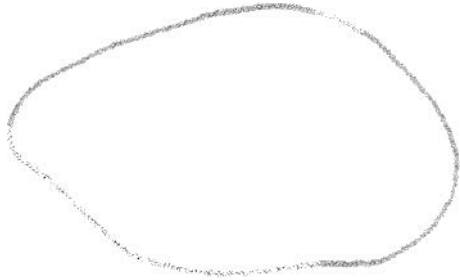
## Soft and slippery

Because raw talc is so soft, it can be easily scratched. It is greasy to the touch and has a pearly surface.



## Leaf imprint

A fossil is the remains of an animal or plant preserved naturally. While the soft parts of this leaf decayed, the hard parts became covered in mud. The shape was preserved when the mud hardened into rock over millions of years.



## Prehistoric bug

In prehistoric times, the sticky resin of a tree trapped this bug. Over millions of years, the resin hardened into amber. Insects, spiders, and even frogs have been preserved this way.



## Sulfur

Yellow crystals form when molten sulfur cools. Large underground deposits in the United States provide sulfur for making rubber and chemicals.

# MINERALS



Diopside is prized for its color, but it is rarely cut into gems because it is brittle and too soft to be worn



Azurite is a startlingly blue copper mineral



Wulfenite is usually an orange or yellow color, but it may also be brown, gray, or greenish-brown



Malachite produces a rich, bright green pigment used in paint



Clinoclase is dark greenish-blue to greenish-black in color, with a bluish-green streak



Polished smithsonite is used as a decorative stone



Crocoite is an orange-red color and has a hard, brittle surface



Rhodochrosite is sometimes cut into gems for collectors, but it is more commonly used as a decorative stone



Sulfur is often found in volcanic vents and blow-holes



Orpiment resembles gold



Talc is the softest mineral and is used to make talcum powder