

Culturally or Personally Significant Mineral Assignment

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Overview:

The purpose of this assignment is to make a connection between you and minerals. Find a mineral that has cultural or personal importance and explain its significance to you.

Example: I have cultural roots in China as that is where my mother's parents immigrated to Hawaii from. A culturally significant mineral to me is jade. Historically, jade has always been a highly prized mineral in China. There is a traditional Chinese saying that says: "Gold is valuable; jade is invaluable." Jade symbolizes virtue and, according to my mom, is believed to keep a person healthy. Carved objects from as long ago as 2,000-3,000 BCE. have been found in China. My mom's most precious piece of jewelry is a piece of jade given to her by my grandmother.

What to do:

1. Find a mineral or gem that is culturally or personally significant to you.
2. Take or find a photo of the mineral. Your photo must be in one of the following formats: jpg, jpeg, png, or pdf. (No HEIC or other formats.)
3. Follow the directions in the video below and upload your photo and explanation of its significance to Canvas using the Submit button.

Commonly Asked Questions:

- **Wait--what is a mineral?** A mineral is different than a rock. Rocks are made of minerals. (Minerals are the building blocks of rocks.). Minerals are made from elements. These elements combine in different ways to form minerals. For example, the element silicon + the element oxygen creates the mineral quartz.
- **Does a significant mineral have to be a gem or other fancy mineral?** No! A culturally significant mineral for my dad would probably have been salt (the mineral halite). He grew up not far from the ponds where sea salt was harvested on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.
- **What if I can't think of a culturally significant mineral?** Ask a parent, grandparent, or relative for help!
- **What if I don't want to do a culturally significant mineral?** That's fine! Choose a personally significant mineral.
- **Can I do a mineral that is significant to someone else?** Sure, as long as you have their permission, explain who the person is, and why the mineral is significant to them.
- **What if I have a hard time choosing? Can I do more than one mineral?** Sure!