

Using the Mohs Scale: Applying the Main Ideas

Imagine that you have been given samples of the ten minerals listed in the Mohs Hardness Scale. However, instead of being labeled by name, the samples are labeled only with code letters. Use the following clues and chart of the Mohs Scale to determine the identity of each mineral. Then write your results in Table 1.

MOHS HARDNESS SCALE	
Mineral	Hardness
Talc	1
Gypsum	2
Calcite	3
Fluorite	4
Apatite	5
Feldspar	6
Quartz	7
Topaz	8
Corundum	9
Diamond	10

1. Mineral A scratches minerals E and I, but it can be scratched by mineral J.
2. Mineral C can be scratched by every other mineral.
3. Mineral E can scratch mineral I.
4. Mineral F can scratch only mineral C.
5. Mineral B can scratch mineral F, but it can be scratched by all the other minerals.
6. Mineral H can scratch every other mineral.
7. Mineral D can be scratched only by mineral H.
8. Mineral G can be scratched by minerals H and D; it can scratch mineral J.