

If Minerals, Gemstones, and Rocks Could Talk: A Creative Research Project Earth Science	Mr. Traeger
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Name: _____ Period: _____ Subject: _____

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to gain a more intimate understanding of the role that minerals, gems, precious stones, and rocks play in our everyday lives. It is the intent of this project to become more aware of the economic, aesthetic, cultural, and industrial impact of these gifts from the Earth.+

Assignment

- Your assignment for this partner project is to select a mineral, gemstone, birthstone/precious stone, or rock to research. No more than two people may be in a group. You will make a PowerPoint presentation showcasing your mineral. Once you have selected a topic, you need to clear it with me. No more than two people in the class should be researching the same mineral, gemstone, or rock. This is a group project, but you may work on it alone if you wish. A list of possible mineral subjects is below. You may select any mineral you choose that you and your partner would like to research and you may also select minerals/rocks that are not on this list.

▪ copper	▪ silver	▪ gold	▪ cinnabar	▪ platinum
▪ graphite	▪ diamond	▪ sulfur	▪ chalcopyrite	▪ galena
▪ pyrite	▪ halite	▪ sylvite	▪ fluorite	▪ magnetite
▪ corundum	▪ hematite	▪ rutile	▪ uraninite	▪ bauxite
▪ calcite	▪ dolomite	▪ azurite	▪ malachite	▪ colemanite
▪ barite	▪ gypsum	▪ wulfenite	▪ limestone	▪ borax
▪ turquoise	▪ quartz	▪ beryl	▪ tourmaline	▪ jadeite/nephrite
▪ talc	▪ muscovite mica	▪ biotite mica	▪ kaolinite	▪ feldspar
▪ topaz	▪ garnet	▪ zircon	▪ olivine/peridot	▪ serpentine

- Once you have done some preliminary research and have selected a topic, you will need to do more in-depth research. You should look at books, encyclopedias, and the Internet. See the class web site for links to mineral and rock sites. The link is <http://home.lcusd.net/lchs/ttraeger/> When you get to this link, scroll down to Geology Links (picture of the Grand Canyon) and click on it. Under the Geology Links, you will find some nice web sites relating to minerals, rocks, and gemstones.
- You should be looking for information such as physical properties (chemical formula, crystal form, streak, hardness, luster, etc.) and interesting facts (which include, but are not limited to, economic significance, cultural significance, aesthetics, industrial uses, etc.). Your report should highlight how this mineral, gemstone, or rock has affected and continues to affect human society. Also detail the geographic areas of the world where it is mined by using a map found online. Is your mineral/rock precious or abundant? Tell me *everything* about your mineral, gemstone, or rock that you can find!
- **Your project must be creative. If it is written in a report format like an encyclopedia, I will not read it.** I require that you take the role of the mineral/gemstone/rock and tell its story from a **first-person perspective**. Tell the story of the life of your mineral *creatively*. **Ask me** if you are unsure.
- Make sure you cite your sources in a works cited. *Do not* cut and paste text off of a website. Any pictures that you use must be hyperlinked and cited in your works cited at the end of your PowerPoint. Rewrite the text in your own words. Use the [Noodle Tools website](#) to make your works cited. You must have at least 3 sources that you will actually use. Full points will be received if you use at least 5 sources. I want to see a mix of sources among books, encyclopedias, and the Internet.
- Compile your research into an attractive PowerPoint presentation. I will show you some [techniques and tips](#) for using PowerPoint. You should have around 10 slides in your presentation. When you are done, you will submit your project electronically via the studentw folder so that it can be presented in front of the class. I will show you where this is. For now, you should make sure that you save your work to your folder on the school server.
- You should have your PowerPoint completed *no later* than **Wednesday, October 30, 2013**.
- This project will be worth a total of 55 points. This is equivalent to just under 2 test grades, so it will help your grade considerably if you do a good job! The point breakdown is content (30), bibliography (10), and aesthetics (looks) (15).

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Earth Science

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Period: _____

Mineral/Gemstone: _____

Use this rubric as a formula for getting a good grade. The closer you follow this rubric, the better your grade will be!

0 = F	1 = D	2 = C	3 = B	4 = A
Content: Worth 30 points total				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project not done ▪ Standard report form ▪ Text not written in first person format gets a zero for content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project late 3 days ▪ Poorly written ▪ Insufficient amount of content (way less than 10 slides) ▪ Missing 3 interest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project late 2 days ▪ Average writing ▪ Missing 2 interest areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project late 1 day ▪ Good, standard level of writing ▪ Missing 1 interest area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project on time ▪ Excellent, creative level of writing ▪ Addresses all interest areas such as physical properties, economic significance, cultural significance, industrial uses, effect on human society, locations where it is mined
Aesthetics (Looks and Layout): Worth 15 points total				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project not done ▪ Standard report form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Somewhat creative report ▪ No pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Somewhat Creative Power Point ▪ Minimal use of pictures/visual aids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative PowerPoint format with ▪ Pictures used sparingly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Uses full range of color and employs a layout that is pleasing to the eye ▪ Pictures are integrated with the text.
Bibliography/Works Cited: Worth 10 points total				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project not done 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No citation used ▪ No parenthetical documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorrect MLA citation format ▪ No parenthetical documentation used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorrect MLA citation format ▪ Parenthetical documentation used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Correct MLA citation format ▪ Parenthetical documentation used
Final Grades	Content	Aesthetics	Bibliography	Totals
Grand Total out of 55 points possible:				