

The Mineral Name Game

Remember the old game "Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?"? This game is a variation on that theme. We'll call this game "Person, Place or Thing?" Your challenge is to identify the origin of the mineral name. Is the mineral named after a Person, a Place or a Thing? A "Thing" can be a crystal form, a chemical formula or an element, a plant, a physical property, etc. Circle the answer for each. Then, for the real smarty-pants out there, can you name the Person, Place or Thing? Look it up if you have to! After you try to figure these examples out, create some of your own and challenge your family and friends.

Adamite - Person, Place or Thing? _____



Agate - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Amethyst - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Andalusite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Anhydrite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Aquamarine - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Aragonite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Azurite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Barite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Benitoite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Biotite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Brazilianite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Brucite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Cavansite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Celestite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Chalcedony - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Chalcopyrite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Chromite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Cleavelandite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Cobaltite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Colemanite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Danburite - Person, Place or Thing? _____

Diamond - Person, Place or Thing? _____



The Mineral Name Game, Answers

- Adamite - Person. Named after Gilbert Joseph Adam.
- Agate - Place. Named after the Achates River, Sicily, Italy.
- Amethyst - Thing. Named after the Greek word meaning *not drunken*.
- Andalusite - Place. Named after Andalusia, a province in southern Spain.
- Anhydrite - Thing. Named after "without water."
- Aquamarine - Thing. Name means "sea water."
- Aragonite - Place. Named after Aragon, Spain.
- Azurite - Thing. Named after its blue color.
- Barite - Thing. Its name means "heavy."
- Benitoite - Place. Named after San Benito County, California.
- Biotite - Person. Named after Jean Baptiste Biot.
- Brazilianite - Place. Named after Brazil.
- Brucite - Person. Named after Archibald Bruce.
- Cavansite - Thing. Named after its chemical composition: Calcium, vanadium, silicon.
- Celestite - Thing. Named after its sky blue ("celestial") color.
- Chalcedony - Place. Named after the ancient Greek port of Chalcedon in Asia Minor.
- Chalcopyrite - Thing. Named after its copper content.
- Chromite - Thing. Named after its chromium content.
- Cleavelandite - Person. Named after Professor P. Cleaveland.
- Cobaltite - Thing. Named after its cobalt content.
- Colemanite - Person. Named after William T. Coleman.
- Danburite - Place. Named after Danbury, Connecticut.
- Diamond - Thing. Named after its hardness and a Greek word for "invincible."