

WHAT'S IN A MINERAL?

Minerals are made of elements that have combined together to form molecules. If you look in a mineral field book or hand book, you will see the chemical formula of the mineral.

Here's a little challenge for you. Get your mineral book and figure out which element is NOT found in the minerals listed below. Circle the answer or answers. The easiest are the first ones and they get harder as you go along. Try to do this from memory. Don't be afraid to use a good book or the internet for help!

Pyrite Fe (iron) Cu (copper) S (sulfur) C (carbon)

Fluorite F (fluorine) Pb (lead) Ca (calcium) Ba (barium)

Halite Na (sodium) F (fluorine) Cl (chlorine) K (potassium)

Goethite H (hydrogen) Fe (iron) Ba (barium) O (oxygen)

Malachite O (oxygen) H (hydrogen) Ni (nickel) Cu (copper) C (carbon)

Gypsum H (hydrogen) S (sulfur) Si (silicon) Ca (calcium) O (oxygen)

Vanadinite Pb (lead) V (vanadium) Cl (chlorine) O (oxygen) Fe (iron)

Muscovite Mg (magnesium) K (potassium) Al (aluminum) Si (silicon)

Dolomite Ca (calcium) Cu (copper)
Mg (magnesium) C (carbon)

Beryl Be (beryllium) Si (silicon)
Pb (lead) Al (aluminum)

Hemimorphite Zn (zinc) S (sulfur)
O (oxygen) Si (silicon)



Just for Kids Answers

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(More accurately, these are the elements that are NOT in these minerals.)

Pyrite Cu (copper), Fluorite Pb (lead), Halite F (fluorine) and K (potassium), Goethite Ba (barium), Malachite Ni (nickel), Gypsum Si (silicon), Vanadinite Fe (iron), Muscovite Mg (magnesium), Dolomite Cu (copper), Beryl Pb (lead), Hemimorphite S (sulfur)