Congo minerals iphone

About 3,700 minerals are found in the earth's crust, according to KidsGeo.com. Magmatic, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are found everywhere on the earth's surface and at the bottom of the ocean. Minerals used by humans are most often found in mines and mining operations on all inhabited continents. The United States contains several mines that produce valuable minerals. Arizona and Michigan have copper mines that produce industrial grade and decorative minerals. California extracts live from hot springs that also make carbonate and sulfate minerals. Magnet Cove in Arkansas is known for titanium-based minerals such as rutile, anatase and brookite. International mines also harvest minerals people need. Locations in New South Wales, Australia produce copper, lead and silver. Cornwall, England has mines that have been worked for centuries recovering silver, tin, lead, copper, iron and tungsten. Ontario, Canada has areas of cobalt and silver. A mine in Saxony, Germany has been in use since ancient Times and produces more than 300 minerals. According to Maps of the World, uranium is extracted in Canada, Australia, Africa, Central Asia and France. Gold is recovered in countries such as Russia, Canada, Brazil, South Korea and South Africa. The world's diamond mines are located in Brazil, South Africa, India and Siberia. The most common minerals found in the earth's crust include silicate rocks such as quartz, mica and olivin. Large mineral classes are tail sides, oxides, sulfates and carbonates. NASA/Public Domain Scientific American has an

excellent piece on the minerals extracted to make our iPhones. Including images and a great infographic, the piece delves into the rare earth minerals we use for electronic devices and where they come from - and at what cost. It also looks at the Molycorp mine here in the US and the ways the company is trying to extract minerals in a less environmentally destructive way - although how far the mining industry can really go to green its business is debatable. What is unique about Molycorp is that it tries to harvest rare earth minerals in an environmentally friendly way, or at least as environmentally friendly as a mine can manage. The company has come up with a proprietary method that they believe is the answer to toxic root that has defined much of the world's rare earth mining. And if Molycorp executives are correct, they can modernize rare earth mining in a way that could force Chinese competitors to improve the way they operate.... There is little doubt that the environmental costs of making an iPhone, as well as those wind turbines, hybrid engines and herds of other technical wonders that use rare earth minerals, have been enormous. But regulatory pressure, coupled with the market forces of the new Molycorp mine, could be the start of a cleaner rare land mining industry. The SA piece is very informative and sure to spark more questions, and it's well worth going over read in full. Some common examples of minerals include quartz, graphite, talc and amethyst. Other examples include diamonds, gold, silver, copper, rubies, turquoise, topaz and sulfur. With few exceptions, minerals are objects that are formed naturally without the intervention of humans. Unlike carbon compounds in living materials such as plants, humans and animals, most minerals are completely inorganic. Minerals are solid objects, which means they usually do not evaporate, hang or melt. Most minerals are crystalline objects that have a specific atomic arrangement and recipe. There are some unnatural substances that are still called minerals, because until the 1990s some chemical compounds that formed when artificial materials broke down were classified as minerals, although they would not be classified as such anymore. Mercury is a unique mineral, in that it behaves like liquid at room temperature. In some areas, however, mercury behaves strictly like a mineral, as it hardens and forms crystals when exposed to extremely cold conditions. A few types of minerals, such as graphite and diamonds, are formed from organic compounds. While the majority of minerals are crystalline, some have such small crystals that they are undetectable to the naked human eye, and a small number of amorphous mineraloids do not form crystals at all. Apple's reported move to buy cobalt directly from miners may bring efficiency to the Democratic Republic of Congo's troubled mining sector, but it will probably only mess up an already murky field. Cutting out the middleman, Apple reportedly wants to buy cobalt directly from miners, according to a report from Bloomberg on February 21. Depending on anonymous sources, Bloomberg reports that Apple is in talks to buy long-term supplies of the metal. Once an ignored byproduct of copper mining, demand for cobalt is driven by the world's dependence on the rechargeable batteries in our smartphones and the shift towards electric cars. The report does not say which miners Apple will handle, and Apple declined to comment on Bloomberg's story. Glencore, the multinational mining company that operates in around 50 countries, has named Apple as one of the main customers they spoke to about cobalt, according to Bloomberg.Apple and other major cobalt consumers are scurrying to access cobalt resources that are currently limited - not because of the amount of iron ore available, but because mining companies can't get it out of the ground quickly enough to keep up with the daily demand for rechargeable batteries. The problem has nothing to do with the amount of cobalt in the ground, but rather the number of mines currently producing cobalt, said Trent Mell, ceo of First Cobalt Corp, the world's largest We are in an imbalance between supply and demand, and it will miners a few years to catch up. Apple's reported move is neither new nor surprising, says Ilja Graulich of Madini Minerals, a junior mining company based in Johannesburg with interests in the DRC. By securing cobalt supply, Apple is doing what major manufacturers have been doing for years. Large companies will want to make sure their supply chain is managed properly, Graulich said, adding that this is likely to push out unscrupulous miners. Any junior company linked to the alleged deal will have even more reason, and funding, to stay in the troubled DRC. What will be interesting is the price -everyone is trying to get into cobalt so will set the price? The rapidly changing technology industry means it is difficult to predict the long-term future of cobalt. Glencore reported a 2017 performance that was our strongest on record, CEO Ivan Glasenberg said in the company's earnings report on February 21. Much of the bumper 44% dividend payout is due to the spike in cobalt, which saw a 108% increase on the average price, from $12 a pound to around $25 a pound last year alone. Glencore is on track to benefit from this price increase, with an expected production increase of 133%, according to its earnings report. By 2030, 314 kilotons of cobalt will be needed by the electric car industry alone, according to a study commissioned by Glencore.If Apple is to go directly to the supplier, it will likely benefit the likes of Glencore, while cobalt profits do little to improve the country's economy. Congolese makers are already considering increasing royalties mining companies have to pay to export cobalt. If this law takes effect, companies with a long-standing presence in the DRC are likely to find a way to circumvent it. Thanks to a deal like the 2012 agreement with DRC's national electricity provider, Société Nationale d'Électricité, Glencore contributed $389 million as a loan to improve the power grid, according to its earnings report. The government repays the loan by providing electricity discounts. Almost all rocks are made of minerals. The exceptions are obsidian (which is made of volcanic glass) and coal (which is made of organic carbon.) It's easy to learn the basics of mineral identification. All you need are some simple tools (like a magnet and a magnifying glass) and your own powers of careful observation. Have a pen and paper or a computer available to record your notes. Cyndi Monaghan/Getty Images Use the largest mineral sample you can find. If your mineral is in pieces, remember that they may not all be from the same stone. Finally, make sure that the specimen is free of dirt and debris, clean and dry. Now you're ready to start identifying your mineral. Andrew Alden Luster describes how a mineral reflects light. Measuring it is the first step in mineral identification. Always look for shine on a fresh surface; you may need to chip off a small portion to expose a clean sample. Luster ranges from metallic (very and opaque) to dull (non-reflective and opaque.) In between are half a dozen other categories of brilliance that assess the degree of a mineral transparency and reflectivity. The Mohs scale is low-tech, but time-tested. Andrew Alden Hardness is measured on the 10-point Mohs scale, which is essentially a scratch test. Take an unknown mineral and scratch it with an object of known hardness (like a nail or a mineral like quartz.) Through trial and observation, you can determine the hardness of the mineral, an important identification factor. For example, powdery talc has a Mohs hardness of 1; you can crumble it between your fingers. A diamond, on the other hand, has a hardness of 10. It is the hardest material known. Beware of color until you've learned which colors to trust. Andrew Alden Color is important in mineral identification. You need a fresh mineral surface and a source of bright, clear light to examine it. If you have an ultraviolet light, check to see if the mineral has a fluorescent color. Pay attention to whether it shows other special optical effects, such as iris or changes in color. Color is a fairly reliable indicator in opaque and metallic minerals such as the blue of opaque mineral lazurite or brass-yellow of metallic mineral pyrite. However, in transparent or transparent minerals, the color is less reliable as an identifier because it is usually the result of a chemical impurity. Pure quartz is clear or white, but quartz can have many other colors. Try to be precise in your identification. Is it a pale or deep shade? Does it resemble the color of another common object, like brick or blueberry? Is it even or marbled? Is it a pure color or a variety of shades? Andrew Alden Streak describes the color of a finely crushed mineral. Most minerals leave a white streak, regardless of their overall color. But some minerals leave a distinctive streak that can be used to identify them. To identify your mineral, you need a line plate or something like that. A broken kitchen tile or even a convenient sidewalk can do. Scrape the mineral over the line plate with a scribble motion, and then look at the results. Hematitis, for example, will leave a reddish-brown streak. Keep in mind that most professional liners have a Mohs hardness of about 7. Minerals that are more difficult will scrape the place and will not leave a line. Andrew Alden A minerals habit (the general form) can be especially useful for identifying some minerals. There are more than 20 different terms that describe habit. A mineral with visible layers, like Rhodochrosite, has a banded habit. Amethyst has a drusy habit, where serrated projectiles line a stone interior. Careful observation and perhaps a magnifying glass is all you need for this step in the mineral identification process. How minerals break is an important trace to their identification. Andrew Alden Cleavage describes how a mineral breaks. minerals break along flat aircraft or cleavage. Some cleave in only one one (like mica), others in two directions (like feldspar), and some in three directions (such as calcite) or more (like fluorite). Some minerals, such as quartz, have no cleavage. Cleavage is a deep property caused by a mineral molecular structure, and cleavage is present even when the mineral does not form good crystals. Cleavage can also be described as perfect, good or bad. Fractures are fractures that are not flat, and there are two types: konchoidal (shell-shaped, as in quartz) and uneven. Metallic minerals can have a hackly (serrated) breach. A mineral can have good cleavage in one or two directions, but break in a different direction. To determine cleavage and fracture, you need a stone hammer and a safe place to apply it to minerals. A magnification program is also convenient, but not necessary. Carefully break the mineral and observe the shapes and angles of the pieces. It can break into sheets (a cleavage), shrapnel or prisms (two cleavages), diced or rhombs (three cleavages) or anything else. Always test for magnetism with a dark mineral – it's not difficult. Andrew Alden A mineral magnetism may be another identifying property in some cases. Magnetite, for example, has a strong feature that will attract even weak magnets. But other minerals have only a slight attraction, especially chromite (black oxide) and pyrrhotite (a bronze sulfide.) You will want to use a strong magnet. Another way to test magnetism is to see if the sample attracts a compass needle. Andrew Alden Taste can be used to identify evaporation minerals (minerals formed by evaporation) such as halite or rock salt because they have distinctive flavors. Borax, for example, tastes sweet and a little alkaline. But be careful. Some minerals may sicken you if you ingested in sufficient quantities. Gently touch the tip of the tongue to a fresh face of the mineral, and spit it out. Fizz refers to the effervescent reaction of certain carbonate minerals in the presence of an acid like vinegar. Dolomite, which is found in marble, will fizz actively if fell in a small bath of acid, for example. Heft describes how heavy or dense a mineral feels in the hand. Most minerals are about three times as dense as water; that is, they have a specific gravity of about 3. Note a mineral that is noticeably light or heavy for its size. Sulphides like Galena, which is seven times more dense than water, will have a remarkable heft. Andrew Alden The final step in mineral identification is to take the list of properties and consult an expert source. A good guide to stone-forming minerals should list the most common, including horn-bleaching and feldspar, or identify them by a common characteristic such as metallic sheen. If you still can't identify your mineral, you may need to consult a more comprehensive mineral identification guide. Guide.

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