

# Rock vs. Mineral Foldable

North Carolina Geological Survey

[www.deq.nc.gov/geoscience-education](http://www.deq.nc.gov/geoscience-education)



- Overview:** Foldables are a fun, interactive way for students to process, organize, and review information learned during lessons.
- Target Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 2023 Science Standard(s):**
- ESS.4.2** – Understand patterns of change in the Earth’s surface over time
  - ESS.4.2.1** – Carry out investigations to classify minerals using tests for the physical properties of hardness, color, luster, cleavage, and streak
  - ESS.4.2.2** – Carry out investigations to classify rocks as metamorphic, sedimentary, or igneous based on their composition, how they are formed, and the processes that create them
- Objectives:** For use as a final wrap up of your minerals and rock lessons by having students decide which properties apply to rocks, to minerals, or to both.
- Estimated Time:** 40 minutes
- Teacher Prep & Instructions:**
1. Download the example foldables with instructions that are attached to this packet.
  2. You can have students use this foldable or just use it as an instruction template and have them create their own version.
  3. Print the page with the rock/mineral characteristics and have students cut them out individually along the dotted lines.
  4. Have students work individually to organize the characteristics beneath the appropriate sections on the foldable.
  5. Discuss the answers as a class and once you’re certain that all students have the correct characteristics placed in the appropriate section, they can glue or tape them onto the foldable.

Table of rock and minerals characteristics. Students should cut out individual squares along the dotted lines.

Made of one or more minerals	Can contain fossils	Usually the same color throughout	Naturally occurring	Hardness determined by Moh's Scale
No defined/definite shape	Definite internal crystal structure	Solid	Cannot contain fossils	Was never alive
May be one element or many elements	One example is igneous	One example is quartz	Could have been part of a living organism	Color varies from one sample to the next
One example is sandstone	Found all over the world	Definite chemical composition	Can be weathered & eroded	Has a defined shape

This is an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper

Cut along dashed lines

Fold paper in half "hamburger style" as shown below

(This side will become the back of the bottom half after folding)



Fold hamburger-style along this solid line

**ROCK, MINERAL, OR BOTH?**

**ROCK**

**MINERAL**

**BOTH**

Glue or draw a pic  
of your favorite rock

Glue or draw a pic  
of your favorite mineral

This side will become the back of the bottom half after folding

## ROCK, MINERAL, OR BOTH?

ROCK

MINERAL

**BOTH**

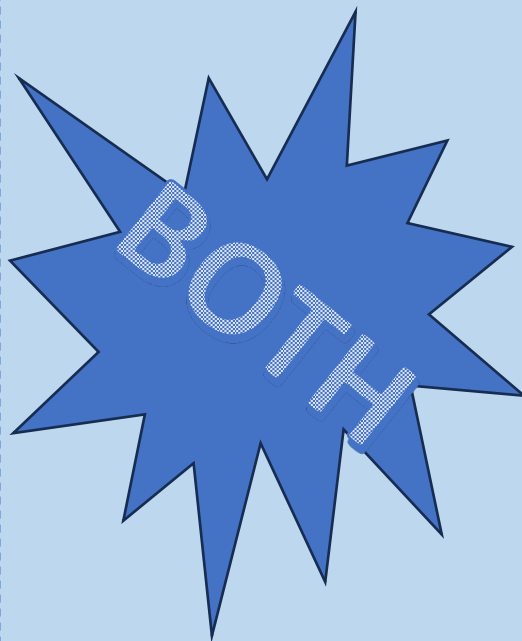
This is an example of what students  
can do with their foldable

## ROCK, MINERAL, OR BOTH?

**ROCK**



**GNEISS**



**MINERAL**



**FLUORITE**

A sample of a finished foldable

