SOFT MINERALS

Hardness less than 5.5
Soft Minerals

- Cleavage excellent or good
  - Translucent to opaque yellow-brown to brown; may appear submetallic; octahedral cleavage; hardness of 3.5-4 — Sphalerite
  - Purple cubes or octahedrons with octahedral cleavage; hardness of 4 — Fluorite
  - Black short opaque prisms; splits easily along 1 excellent cleavage into thin sheets; hardness of 2.5-3 — Biotite Mica
  - Green short opaque prisms; splits easily along 1 excellent cleavage inot thin sheets; hardness of 2-3 — Chlorite
- Cleavage poor or absent
  - Opaque rusty brown or yellow-brown; massive and amorphous; yellow-brown streak; hardness of 1.5-5.5 — Limonite
  - Opaque rusty brown to brown-gray rock with shades of gray, yellow, and white; contains pea-sized spheres that are laminated internally; pale brown streak; hardness of 1-3 — Bauxite
  - Deep blue; crusts, small crystals, or massive; light blue streak; hardness of 3.5-4 — Azurite
  - Opaque green or gray-green; dull or silky masses or asbestos; white streak; hardness of 2-5 — Serpentine
  - Opaque green in laminaed crusts or massive; streak pale green; reacts to acid; hardness of 3.5-4 — Malachite
  - Translucent or opaque dark green; can be scratched with your fingernail; feels greasy or soapy; hardness of 1 — Talc
  - Transparent or translucent green, brown, blue, or purple; brittle hexagonal prisms; conchoidal fracture; hardness of 5 — Apatite

Dark and Medium Colored Non-Metallic Minerals

Adapted From Richard M. Busch Editor; AGI/NAGT Laboratory Manual in Physical Geology