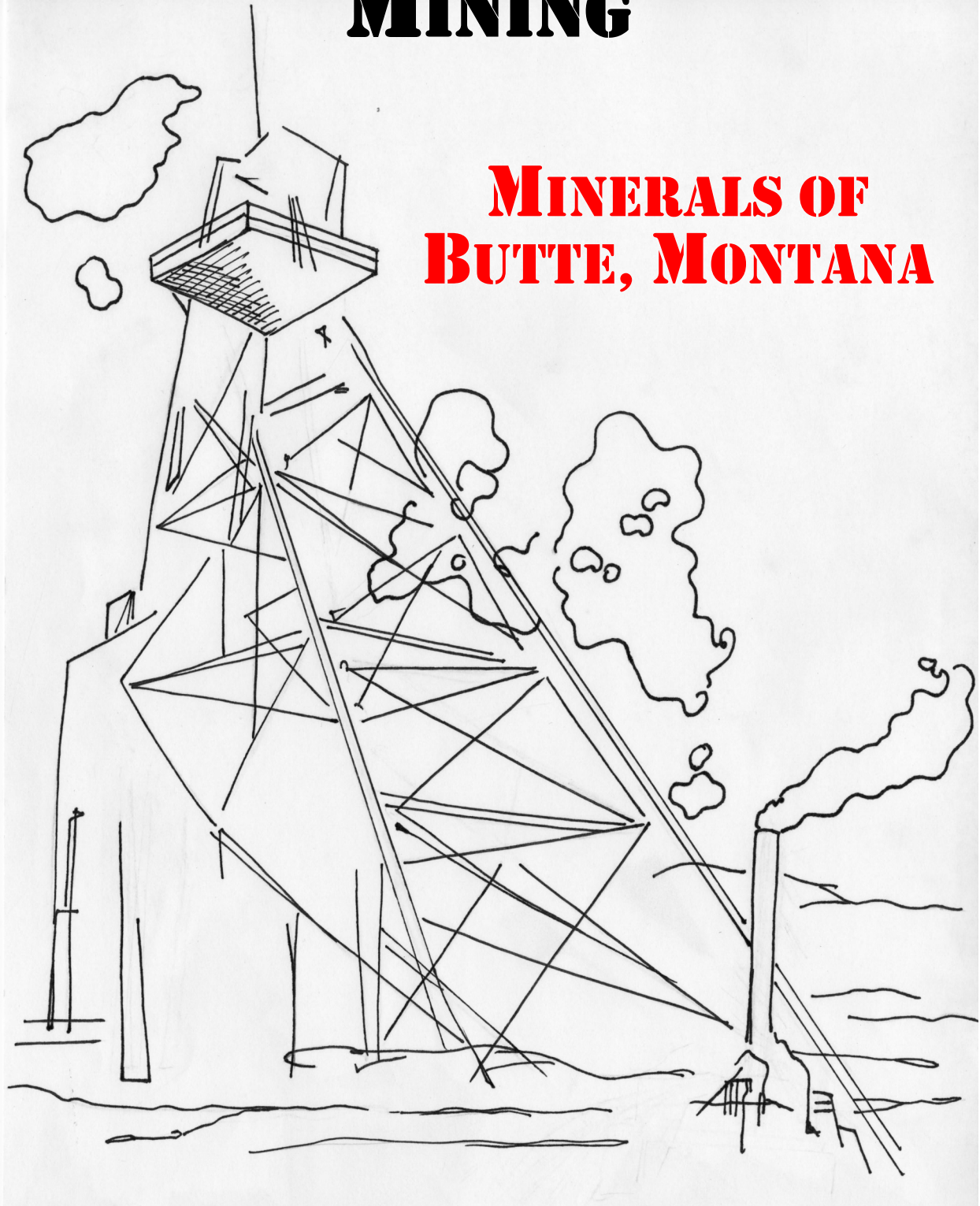


# **WORLD MUSEUM OF MINING**

## **MINERALS OF BUTTE, MONTANA**



# Introduction

Minerals are not made by humans. They have never been alive, and they are not made from plants or animals. Minerals are not a liquid or a gas.

## **What are minerals?**

Minerals are found in nature and have a definite chemical composition.

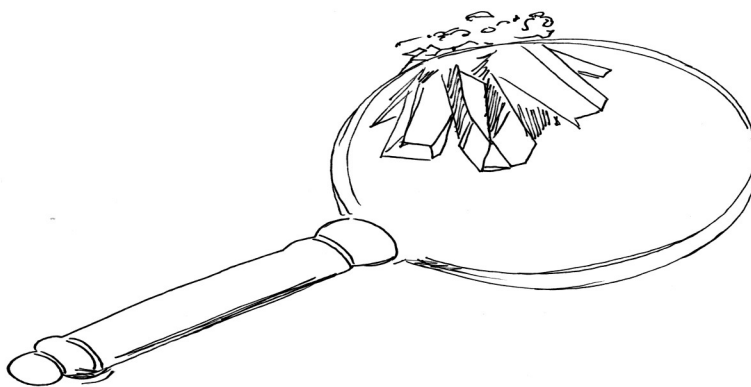
## **Where are minerals found?**

Minerals are found in cars, toothpaste, your clothes, clocks, desks, food, pencils, your body....EVERYWHERE! We could not exist without the presence of minerals.

## **How can you identify a mineral?**

Color is one way to classify a mineral, but you can't identify a mineral by its color alone. You must become a detective when identifying different minerals. This book describes many, but not all, of the physical properties of minerals that can be found in Butte-Silver Bow. Look at as many properties as you can in order to identify your specimen as accurately as possible. Become a mineral detective by looking at the different colors, shapes, hardness, streak and weight of the minerals that surround you.

This book is only a partial list of minerals that have been mined in Butte. The actual mineral specimens included in Minerals of Butte, MT can be seen at the World Museum of Mining.



# Physical Properties of Minerals Defined

**Color:** Often the first property we notice is the color of the mineral. Although color helps narrow down the field of possibilities, many minerals appear in several different colors.

**Hardness:** How easy or difficult it is to scratch the surface of the mineral. The Mohs scale helps to identify the hardness of a mineral from softest to hardest:

1 = Talc; 2 = Gypsum; 3 = Calcite; 4 = Fluorite; 5 = Apatite; 6 = Orthoclase; 7 = Quartz;  
8 = Topaz; 9 = Corundum; 10 = Diamond.

Common items can be used to help determine the hardness of a mineral:

Fingernail = 2.5; Copper Coin = 3.5; Nail = 5; Knife = 5.5; Glass = 6-7; Metal File = 6.5.

**Cleavage:** The pattern that is formed when the mineral splits into flat surfaces due to stress. The split can be described as poor, fair, good or perfect.

**Fracture:** The way a mineral or rock breaks into a form or shape. The fracture may be defined as **conchoidal** meaning that there is a circular pattern in the break. A **poor/indistinct** fracture indicates that there is no circular pattern or any directional cleavage.

**Luster:** The way the mineral shines. Luster may be described as metallic, glassy/vitreous, adamantine, dull, earthy/chalky, silky, greasy or pearly.

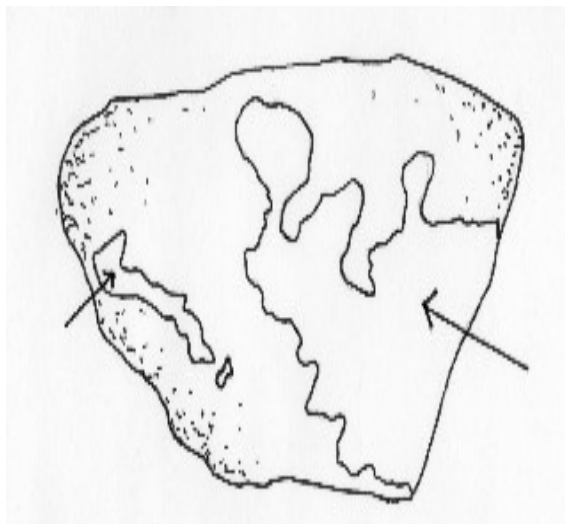
**Streak:** The color of the mineral when it is reduced to powder and rubbed across a plate. The color of the powder may not be the same color as the mineral.

**Specific Gravity:** The weight of a mineral compared to the volume of water at 4° C.

**Crystal System:** The length of axes in crystals and the angles at which they intersect are how you determine which Crystal System a mineral is in. There are seven crystal systems in which a mineral can be classified: Hexagonal, Tetragonal, Orthorhombic, Monoclinic, Trigonal, Isometric and Triclinic.



# AZURITE



**Color:** Azure Blue, Light Blue, or Dark Blue

**Hardness:** 3½- 4

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Glassy/Vitreous

**Streak:** Light Blue

**Specific Gravity:** 3.834 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Azurite is used in jewelry, in dyes, and is a minor ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Azurite's

name is derived from the Persian word *lazhward* meaning blue, and was named Azurite in 1824.

# BARITE



**Color:** Colorless, White, Blue, Green, Yellow and Red Shades

**Hardness:** 3–3 1/2

**Cleavage:** Perfect in one direction

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Glassy/Vitreous

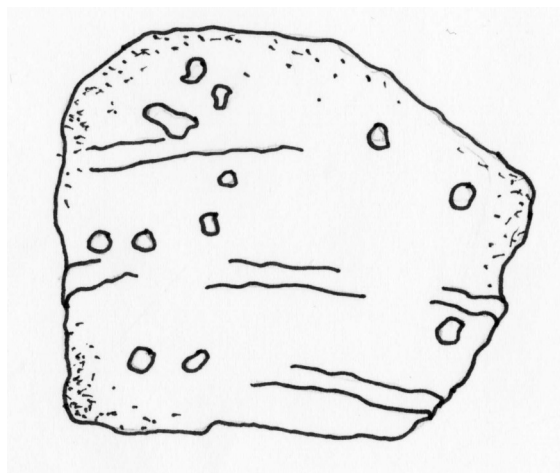
**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 4.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Orthorhombic

**Uses:** Ore of Barium. Crushed Barite is used in the process of drilling oil wells, and in the manufacturing of paper and rubber.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Barite is often mistaken for celestite. When put under a flame test, barite will burn pale green, whereas celestite's flame will be red. The name barite is derived from the Greek word meaning heavy.



# BETEKHTINITE



**Color:** Brownish Black

**Hardness:** 3 – 3.5

**Cleavage:** Distinct/Good in three directions.

**Fracture:** Unknown

**Luster:** Metallic

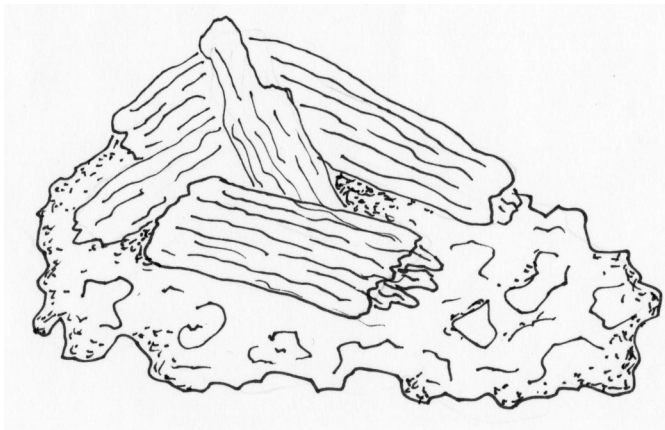
**Streak:** Black

**Specific Gravity:** 5.96-6.05 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Orthorhombic

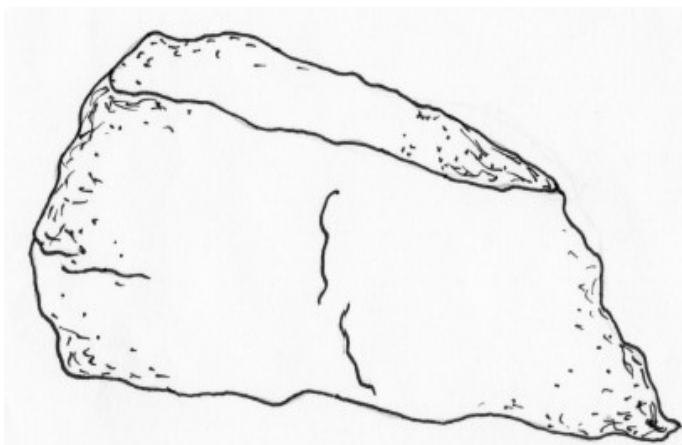
**Uses:** None known. Rare mineral.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Betekhtinite is named after Russian mineralogist and economic geologist, Georgievich Betekhtin (1742-1791), and was discovered in 1955.



\* Specimen courtesy of Joe Slouber

# BORNITE



**Color:** Copper-Red tarnishing to an Iridescent Purplish surface also tarnishing to Black

**Hardness:** 3

**Cleavage:** Poor/Indistinct

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Gray– Black

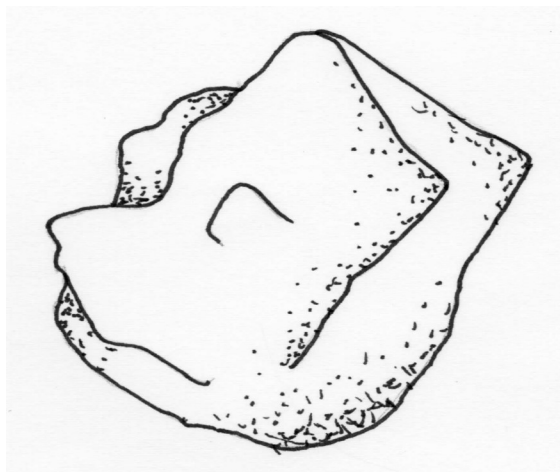
**Specific Gravity:** 5.09 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Orthorhombic

**Uses:** Bornite is an important ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Bornite has been known by different names since 1725. In 1845, it was named in honor of Austrian mineralogist Ignaz von Born (1742-1791).

# CALCITE



**Color:** Found in various colors

**Hardness:** 3

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Vitreous/Pearly

**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 2.711 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Trigonal

**Uses:** Calcite has more uses than almost any other mineral. It is used in construction materials, abrasives, pigments, cement,

and fertilizers. Calcite also has pharmaceutical uses.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Calcite's name is derived from the Latin word *calx* meaning lime.

# CHALCANTHITE



**Color:** Green, Green Blue, Light Blue, or Dark Blue.

**Hardness:** 2½

**Cleavage:** Imperfect/Fair

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Glassy/Vitreous

**Streak:** White

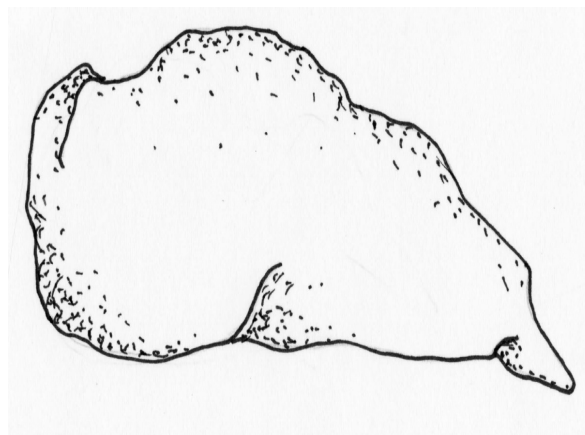
**Specific Gravity:** 2.282 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Triclinic

**Uses:** Chalcantite is a minor ore of

copper. It is also found in insecticides and is used for industrial purposes.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Discovered in 1853, chalcantite received its name from the Greek words *chalkos* meaning copper and *anthos* meaning flower.



# CHALCOCITE



**Color:** Found in different shades of Black.

**Hardness:**  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3

**Cleavage:** Poor/Indistinct

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Blackish Lead Gray

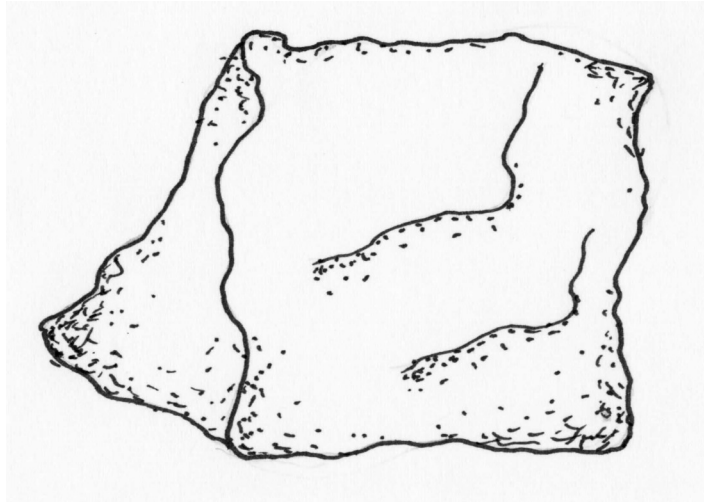
**Specific Gravity:**  $5.8 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

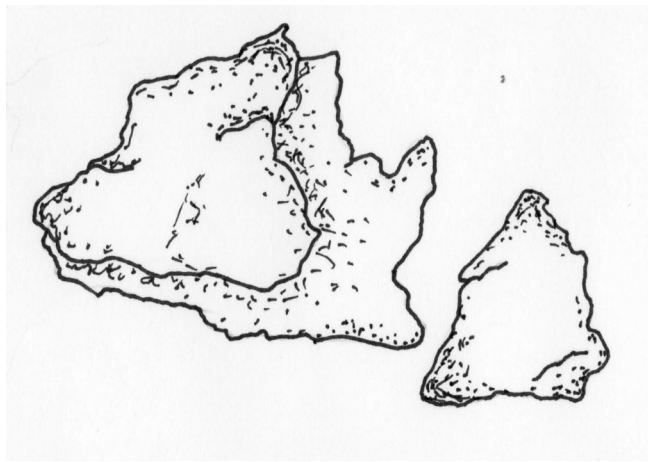
**Uses:** Chalcocite is an important ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:**

Chalcocite's name is derived from the Greek word *chalkos* meaning copper.



# CHALCOPYRITE



**Color:** Brassy Yellow, often with an iridescent tarnish

**Hardness:**  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4

**Cleavage:** Poor and indistinct

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Greenish Black

**Specific Gravity:**  $4.18 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Tetragonal

**Uses:** A major ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:**

Chalcopyrite's name is derived from the Greek word *chalkos* meaning copper and *pyrites* meaning strike fire.

# CHRYSOCOLLA



**Color:** Green, Bluish Green, Blue, Blackish Blue, or Brown

**Hardness:**  $2\frac{1}{2}$  -  $3\frac{1}{2}$

**Cleavage:** None observed

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven; Sub-Conchoidal

**Luster:** Vitreous, Waxy, and Earthy

**Streak:** Light Green

**Specific Gravity:**  $1.93 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Orthorhombic

**Uses:** Mainly used as a copper ore. Chrysocolla is usually too soft to use in jewelry.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The name Chrysocolla is derived from the Greek *chrysos* meaning gold and *kolla* meaning glue.

# COLUSITE



**Color:** Bronze, Pinkish

Bronze

**Hardness:** 3-4

**Cleavage:** None observed

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Black

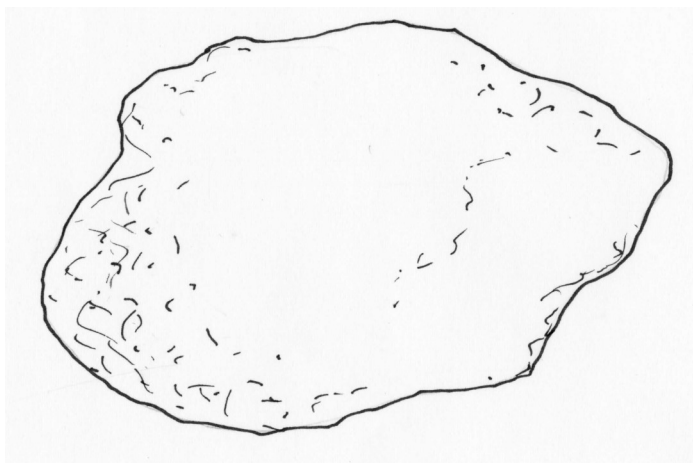
**Specific Gravity:**  $4.63 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** None found

**Other Interesting Facts:**

Colusite is named after the Colusa Mine in Butte, Montana, where it was first discovered in 1932.





# COPPER

**Cu**

**Color:** Copper; weathered specimens are Tarnished Green

**Hardness:** 2½-3

**Cleavage:** None observed

**Fracture:** Jagged

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Reddish Copper

**Specific Gravity:** 8.9 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Copper is used in electrical wires

due to its ability to conduct electricity. Copper is also found in pots and pans, roofing and building materials, water pipes, and pharmaceutical machinery. When mixed with tin, the alloy Bronze is created. When combined with zinc, the alloy brass is formed.

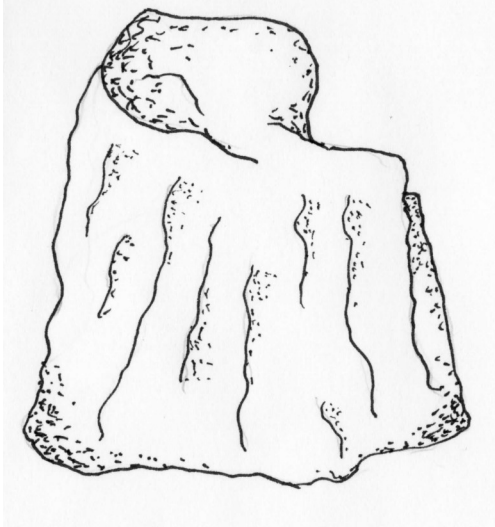
**Other Interesting Facts:** Copper has been mined for centuries and is only found in limited areas.



Copper is ultimately the reason behind Butte's slogan "The Richest Hill on Earth". It all started when Marcus Daly came to Butte in 1876 to mine silver. Why not copper? He and his company believed that silver was going to be the most abundant mineral in Butte at the time. Daly discovered quickly that a large byproduct of silver ore is copper. The demand for electricity was high in the early 1880's, but silver was much too expensive to use for electrical wiring. Copper was a cheaper, better, and more abundant alternative. By 1882 over nine million pounds of copper had already been mined in Butte. Over 50% of the U.S. copper came from Butte in the early 1900's. This copper was used for electrical wiring, plumbing pipes, and, entering into WWI, bullets. We can thank the vast amount of this mineral as a major contributor to Butte's huge history and character.

# COVELLITE

***CuS***



**Color:** Indigo-Blue or darker. Often iridescent with Purplish, Deep Red, and Brassy-Yellow reflections.

**Hardness:** 1½-2

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Sub-metallic

**Streak:** Shiny Metallic, Lead-Gray to Black

**Specific Gravity:** 4.062 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Hexagonal

**Uses:** It is an important ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Covellite is

named in honor of Niccolo Covelli(1790-1829), an Italian mineralogist and discoverer of the mineral at Mount Vesuvius in 1832.

# CRYPTOMELANE

***K(Mn<sup>4+</sup>,Mn<sup>2+</sup>)<sub>8</sub>O<sub>16</sub>***

**Color:** Brown and Grayish-White

**Hardness:** 5-6½

**Cleavage:** Unknown

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Earthy

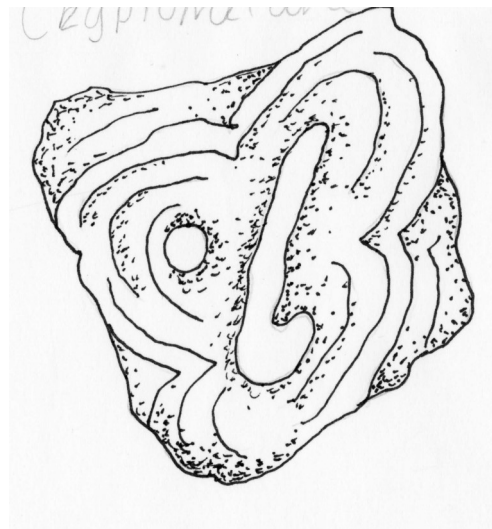
**Streak:** Brownish Black

**Specific Gravity:** 4.36 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Cryptomelane is a minor ore of manganese.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Cryptomelane's name came from the Greek words meaning hidden and black.



# CUPRITE



**Color:** Dark Red sometimes almost Black

**Hardness:**  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4

**Cleavage:** Fair

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Adamantine, Sub-Metallic, earthy

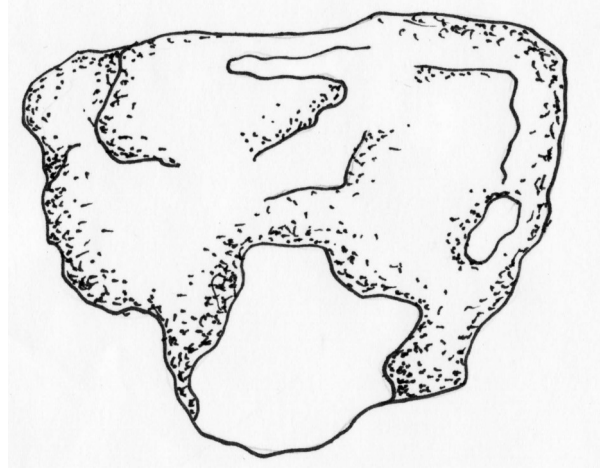
**Streak:** Shining Metallic, Brownish-Red

**Specific Gravity:**  $6.15 \text{ g/cm}^3$

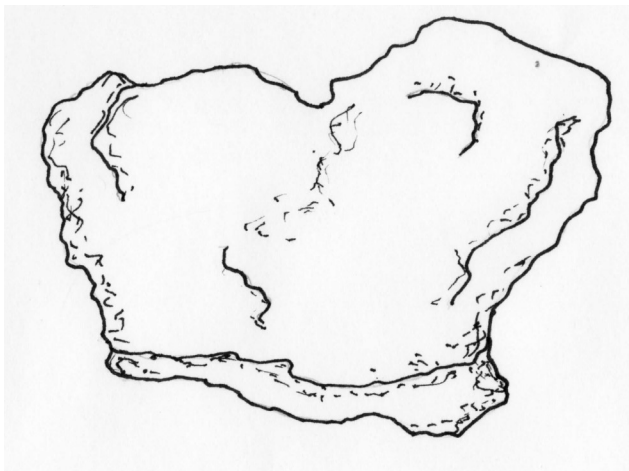
**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** A major ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Cuprite was named in 1845 from the Latin *cuprum* in reference to its composition.



# DIGENITE



**Color:** Gray to Grayish Black, turning Bluish when exposed to air

**Hardness:**  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3

**Cleavage:** Poor/Indistinct

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Sub-Metallic

**Streak:** Grayish Black

**Specific Gravity:**  $5.706 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Trigonal

**Uses:** Digenite is an important ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** First discovered in 1884, digenite's name is from the Greek word meaning of two origins, because it is related to chalcocite and covelite.

# DJURLEITE



No Speciman  
Available

**Color:** Lead Gray, Blue Black, Black, Black Gray

**Hardness:** 2.5 - 3

**Cleavage:** None

**Fracture:** Brittle/Conchoidal

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Metallic

**Specific Gravity:** 5.63 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Djurleite is named for Seved Djurle, who first produced the compound before the mineral was discovered. Djurleite is often confused for chalcocite.

# DOLOMITE



**Color:** White, Gray, Reddish-White, or Pink

**Hardness:** 3½-4

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Brittle/Conchoidal

**Luster:** Vitreous/Pearly

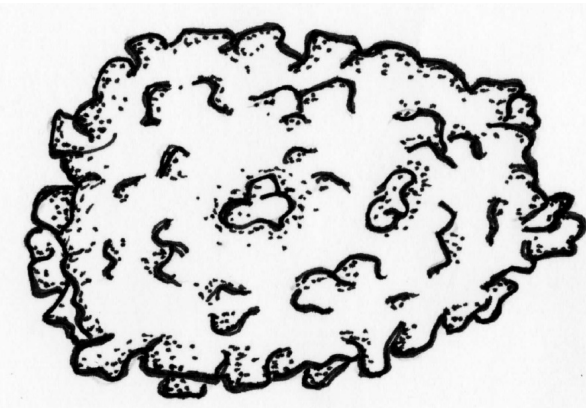
**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 2.876 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Trigonal

**Uses:** Dolomite is used in building stones, refractory bricks for furnace linings, and is an ornamental stone. It is also an ore of metallic magnesium.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Dolomite was named in 1791 after French mineralogist and geologist D. de Dolomieu (1750-1801).



# ENARGITE



**Color:** Grayish-Black to Black, Gray

**Hardness:** 3

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Metallic

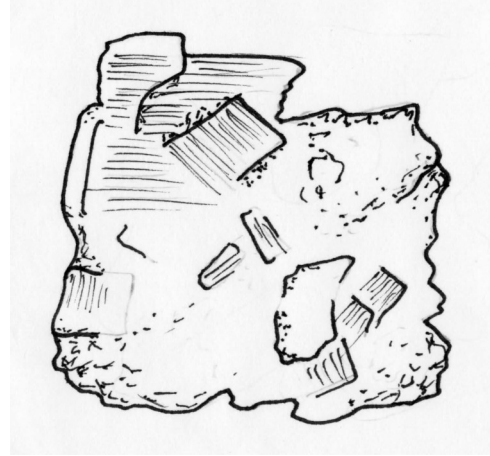
**Streak:** Black

**Specific Gravity:** 4.40 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

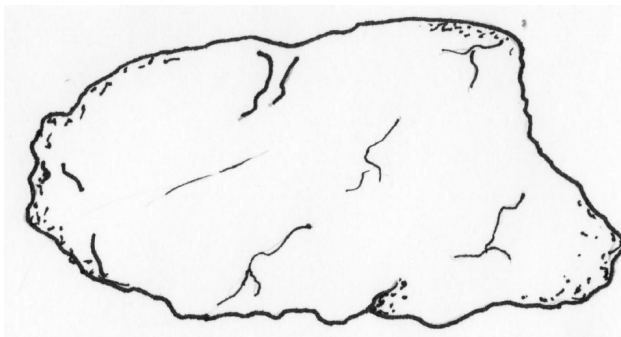
**Crystal System:** Orthohombic

**Uses:** A minor ore of copper.

**Other Interesting Facts:** First found in 1850, enargite received its name from a Greek word meaning distinct due to its cleavage.



# FLUORITE



**Color:** Purple, Lilac, Golden-Yellow, Green, Colorless, Blue, Pink, Champagne, Brown

**Hardness:** 4

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Conchoidal/Uneven

**Luster:** Vitreous

**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 3.181 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

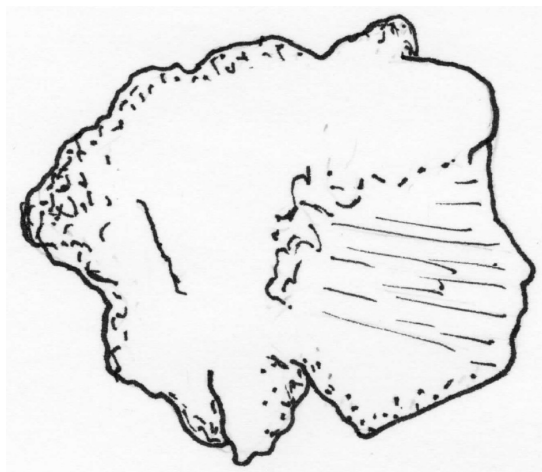
**Uses:** A flux\* in iron smelting, used in optical lenses, found on non-stick surfaces of pots and pans. Fluorite is also used to fight cavities in your toothpaste.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Fluorite's name came from the Latin word *fluere* meaning to flow. Fluorite was first found in 1529.

\* Flux is a material that lowers the melting temperature of a metal.

# GALENA

***PbS***



**Color:** Lead Gray

**Hardness:** 2½

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Uneven

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Lead-Gray

**Specific Gravity:** 7.57 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

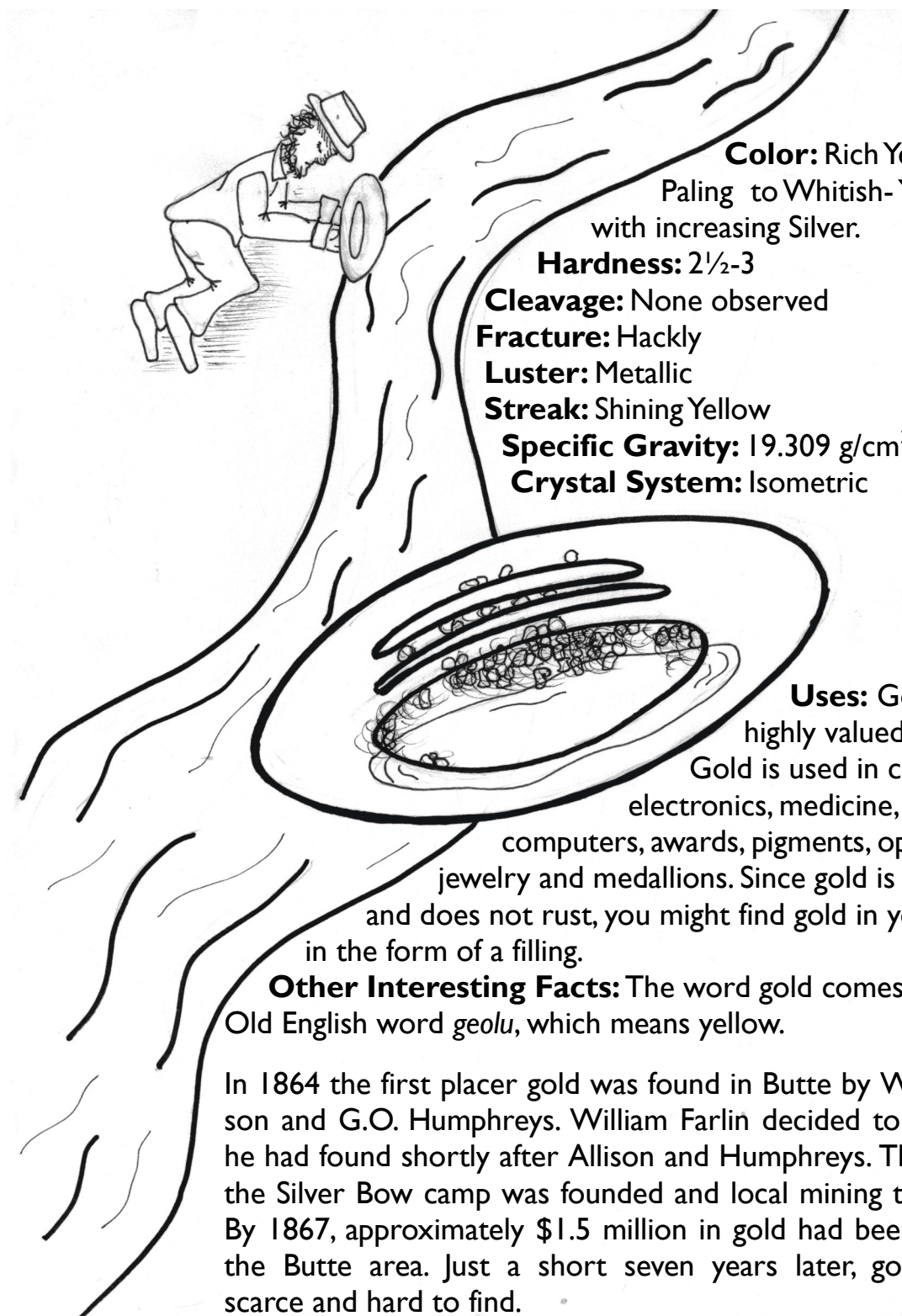
**Uses:** Galena is a major ore of lead and silver.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The word *galena* is Latin for lead ore.



# GOLD

**Au**



**Color:** Rich Yellow,  
Paling to Whitish- Yellow  
with increasing Silver.

**Hardness:** 2½-3

**Cleavage:** None observed

**Fracture:** Hackly

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Shining Yellow

**Specific Gravity:** 19.309 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

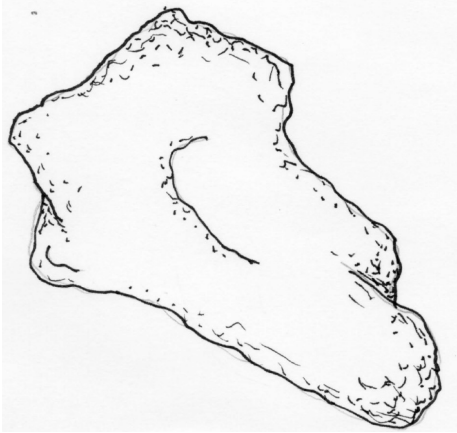
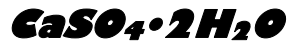
**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Gold is a highly valued mineral. Gold is used in coinage, electronics, medicine, computers, awards, pigments, optics, jewelry and medallions. Since gold is strong and does not rust, you might find gold in your mouth in the form of a filling.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The word gold comes from the Old English word *geolu*, which means yellow.

In 1864 the first placer gold was found in Butte by William Allison and G.O. Humphreys. William Farlin decided to mine gold he had found shortly after Allison and Humphreys. This is when the Silver Bow camp was founded and local mining truly began. By 1867, approximately \$1.5 million in gold had been mined in the Butte area. Just a short seven years later, gold became scarce and hard to find.

# GYPSUM



**Color:** Colorless, White, Gray, Brown, Beige, Orange, Pink, Yellow, Light Red, Green

**Hardness:** 2

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Uneven

**Luster:** Vitreous to Pearly

**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 2.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Gypsum is the primary ingredient in plaster of-Paris and is used in the production of cement. The mineral gypsum can be found in sheet rock, earthenware, and fertilizer. Gypsum is also used in casts that are used to help broken bones heal.

Gypsum is found in several varieties, which include: Alabaster, Desert Rose, Gypsum Flower, Gypsum Rock, Ram's Horn, Sand Gypsum, Satin Spar and Selenite. The specimen pictured is Selenite whose name came from the Greek word meaning moon.

# LEAD

**Pb**

**Color:** Whitish-Gray

**Hardness:** 1 1/2

**Cleavage:** Absent

**Fracture:** Jagged

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Gray

**Specific Gravity:** 11.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Lead was once found in water pipes and paint. It is now more commonly found in lead-acid batteries, casting metals, sheet lead and oxides in glass and ceramics.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Lead is rarely found in its native form. It is found combined with additional elements which form other minerals, such as galena.

No Speciman  
Available



# MALACHITE



**Color:** Green, Dark Green, or Blackish Green

**Hardness:** 3½-4

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Adamantine, Vitreous, Silky, Dull, Earthy

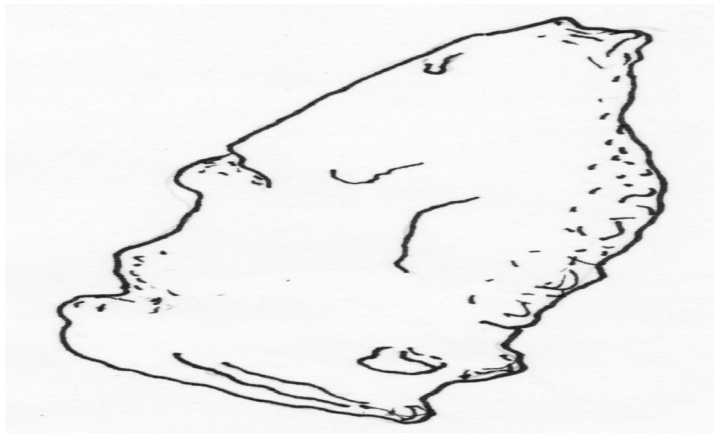
**Streak:** Light Green

**Specific Gravity:** 4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

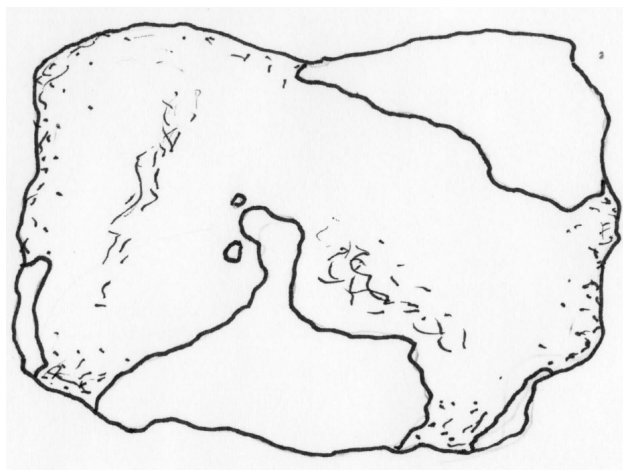
**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Malachite is an ore of copper, is used in jewelry and used as an ornamental material for vases.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Malachite is named after a Greek word that means mallows, which references the green color of leaves.



# MOLYBDENITE



**Color:** Black, Lead-Gray, or Gray

**Hardness:** 1-1½

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Flaky

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Bluish Gray

**Specific Gravity:** 4.998 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Hexagonal

**Uses:** A major ore of molybdenum. Molybdenite may also be a possible replacement semiconductor for sili-

con in transistors of electronic chips.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Molybdenite's name is derived from the Greek word *molybdos* meaning lead.

# POLYBASITE



No Speciman  
Available

**Color:** Black, Dark Ruby Red

**Hardness:** 2.5 - 3

**Cleavage:** Poor

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Sub Metallic

**Streak:** Reddish Black

**Specific Gravity:** 6.1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Monoclinic

**Uses:** Polybasite is an ore of silver.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Named from the Greek words *poly* meaning many and *basis* meaning a base.

# PYRITE



**Color:** Pale Brass to Yellow

**Hardness:** 6-6½

**Cleavage:** Poor/Indistinct

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Greenish-Black

**Specific Gravity:** 5.01 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Pyrite is common among

collectors. The main use of pyrite today is in the production of sulfur dioxide for the paper industry and sulfuric acid for the chemical industry. It is also used to make rubber tires and some medicines.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Named in antiquity from the Greek *pyr* for fire.

Sparks fly from pyrite when hit with another mineral or metal. Pyrite is commonly referred to as Fool's Gold.



# PYROLUSITE



**Color:** Black or Very Dark Gray

**Hardness:** 2-6½

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Metallic

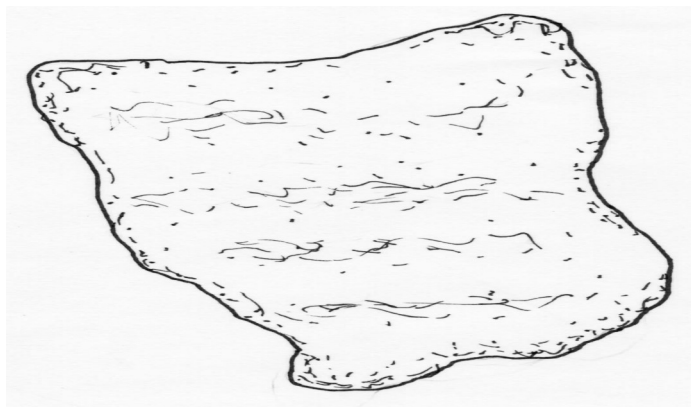
**Streak:** Black to Bluish Black

**Specific Gravity:** 5.189 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

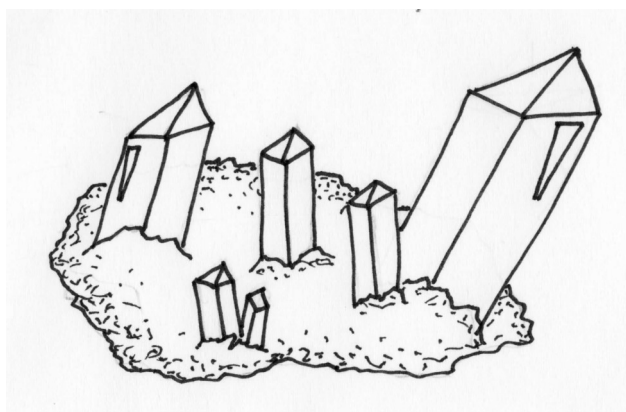
**Crystal System:** Tetragonal

**Uses:** It is a major ore of manganese. Pyrolusite is also used in the manufacture of steel and manganese bronze.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Pyrolusite was named in 1827 from the Greek word meaning fire and to wash, since it was used to remove brown and green colored tints in the making of glass.



# QUARTZ



**Color:** Found in various colors.

**Hardness:** 7

**Cleavage:** Poor/indistinct

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Vitreous

**Streak:** White

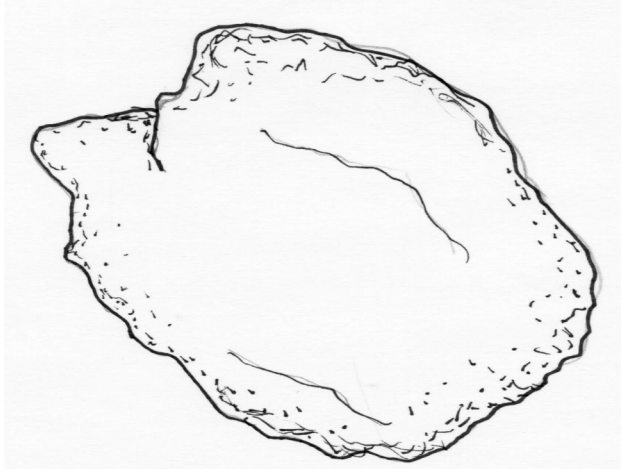
**Specific Gravity:** 2.66 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Trigonal

**Uses:** Quartz is used in a variety of ways including silica for glass, electrical components, optical lenses, abrasives, gemstones, ornamental stone, and building stone.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The name quartz came from the German word *quarz* which is of uncertain origin. Quartz is one of the most common minerals found on Earth's surface.

# RHODOCHROSITE



**Color:** Pink, Rose, Red, Yellowish-Gray, Brown, White, Gray

**Hardness:**  $3\frac{1}{2}$

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven

**Luster:** Vitreous, Pearly

**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:**  $3.7 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Trigonal

**Uses:** Rhodochrosite is an ore of manganese. It may also be carved into

ornaments or figures, and is also used in jewelry.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The name rhodochrosite came from the two Greek words meaning rose and coloring referring to its color.

# RHODONITE



**Color:** Red, Pink, Brownish-Red, Gray

**Hardness:**  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Irregular/Uneven, Conchoidal

**Luster:** Vitreous

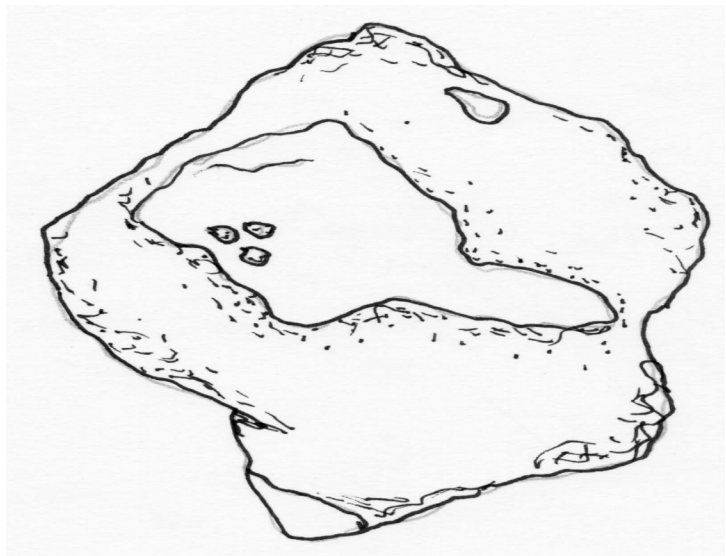
**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:**  $3.726 \text{ g/cm}^3$

**Crystal System:** Triclinic

**Uses:** Rhodonite is used in jewelry and is a minor ore of manganese.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Rhodonite's name came from the Greek word that means rose, referring to its color.



# SILVER

**Ag**

**Color:** Silver-White, tarnishes

Dark Gray to Black

**Hardness:** 2½-3

**Cleavage:** None observed

**Fracture:** None observed

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Silver White

**Specific Gravity:** 10.497 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

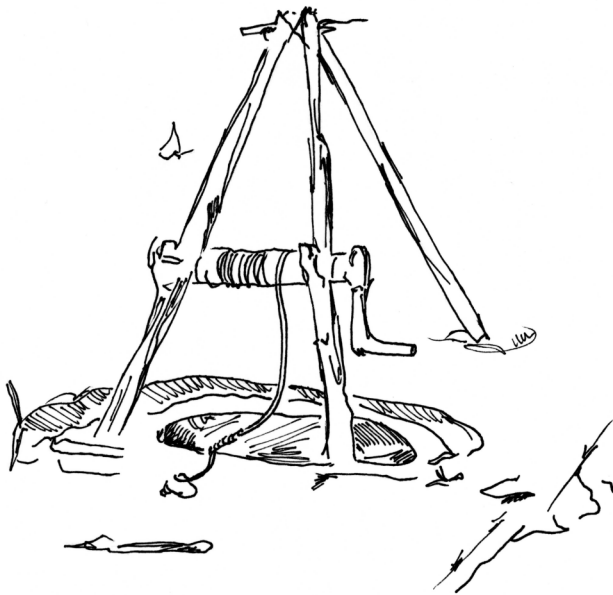
**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Silver is used in many different ways including in electronics, solar panels, nuclear energy, jewelry, silverware, medicine, coins, and in photography.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The name silver came from Old English *seolfor*, with the original meaning lost. The chemical element abbreviation Ag comes from the Latin word *argentum*, meaning silver.



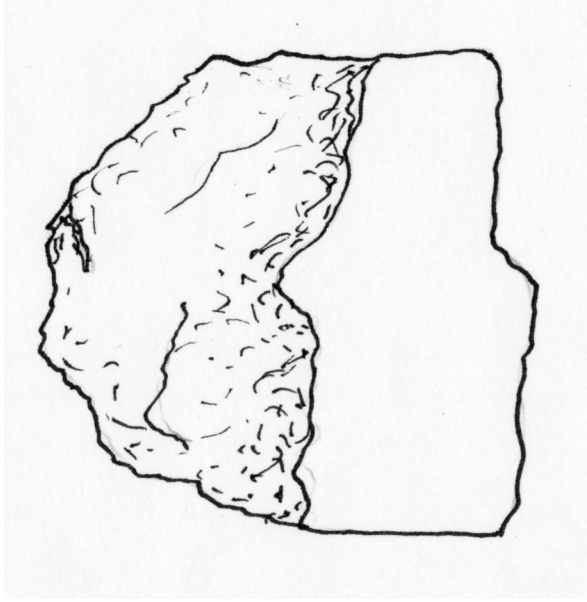
William C. Farlin mined the first silver in the Butte area staking his claim on New Year's Eve 1874. Originally, the claim was named the Asteroid. William Clark owned the Travona after Farlin. In 1879, this claim became known as the Travona.



The copper king Marcus Daly arrived in Butte in 1876 to mine the Alice silver mine. It was owned by the Walker Brothers of Salt Lake City, UT. Daly discovered that there was a large amount of copper in the silver ore. This would be the start of the high demand for copper because it was cheaper than silver and a better conductor of electricity.

# SPHALERITE

***ZnS***



**Color:** Yellow, Light to Dark Brown, Black, Red Brown, Colorless, Light Blue, Green

**Hardness:** 3½-4

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Luster:** Adamantine

**Streak:** Pale Yellow to Brown

**Specific Gravity:** 4.096 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Primary ore of zinc.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Sphalerite's name is derived from the Greek word *sphaleros* meaning treacherous.

# TENNANTITE

***(Cu,Fe)<sub>12</sub>As<sub>4</sub>S<sub>13</sub>***

**Color:** Black to Steel Gray

**Hardness:** 3-4

**Cleavage:** None Observed

**Fracture:** Subconchoidal

**Luster:** Metallic

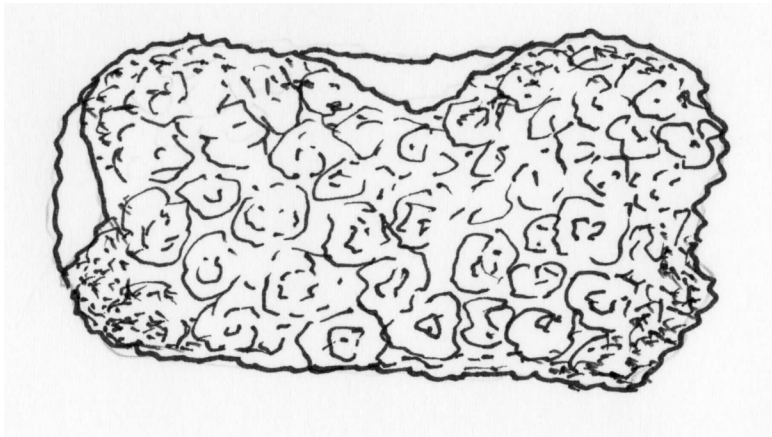
**Streak:** Black to Reddish if rubbed

**Specific Gravity:** 4.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Uses:** Tennantite is an ore of copper and a minor ore of silver and arsenic.

**Other Interesting Facts:** Found in 1819, tennantite was named after Smithson Tennant (1761-1815), an English chemist.



# WAVELLITE



**Color:** Green, White, Colorless, Yellow, and Brown

**Hardness:** 3½-4

**Cleavage:** Good

**Fracture:** Uneven

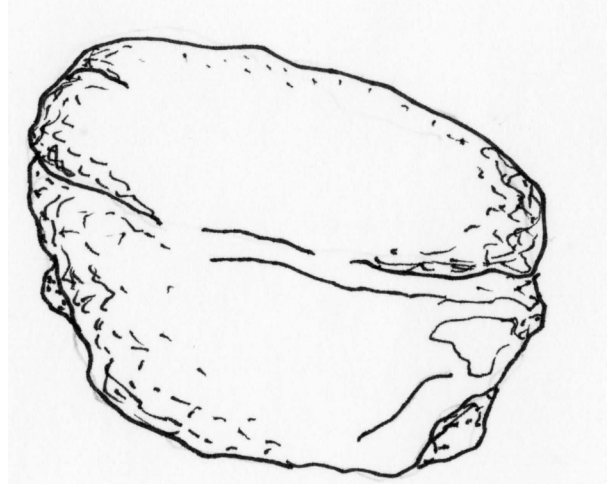
**Luster:** Vitreous

**Streak:** White

**Specific Gravity:** 2.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Orthohombic

**Uses:** Wavellite is mined for its aluminum content.



**Other Interesting Facts:** Wavellite

was named in 1805 for William Wavell (1750-1829) who discovered the mineral.

# ZINC

**Zn**

No Speciman

Available

**Color:** White to Blue Gray.

**Hardness:** 2

**Cleavage:** Perfect

**Fracture:** Hackly

**Luster:** Metallic

**Streak:** Slightly Grayish

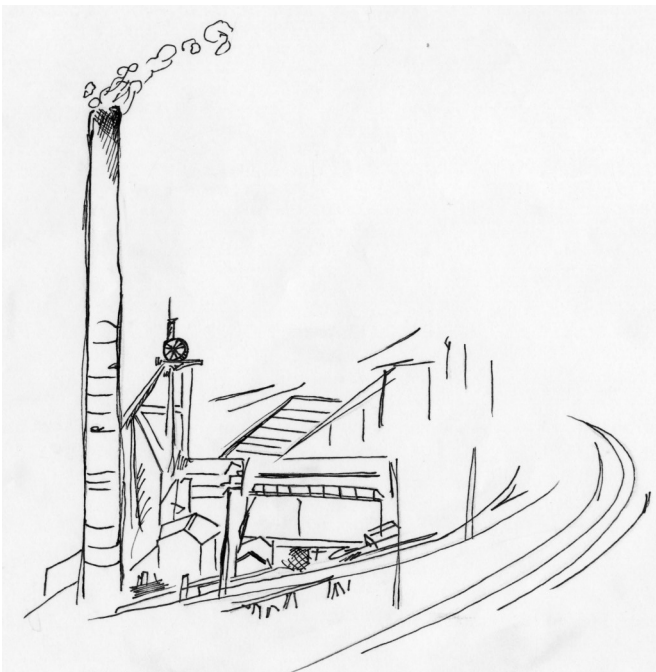
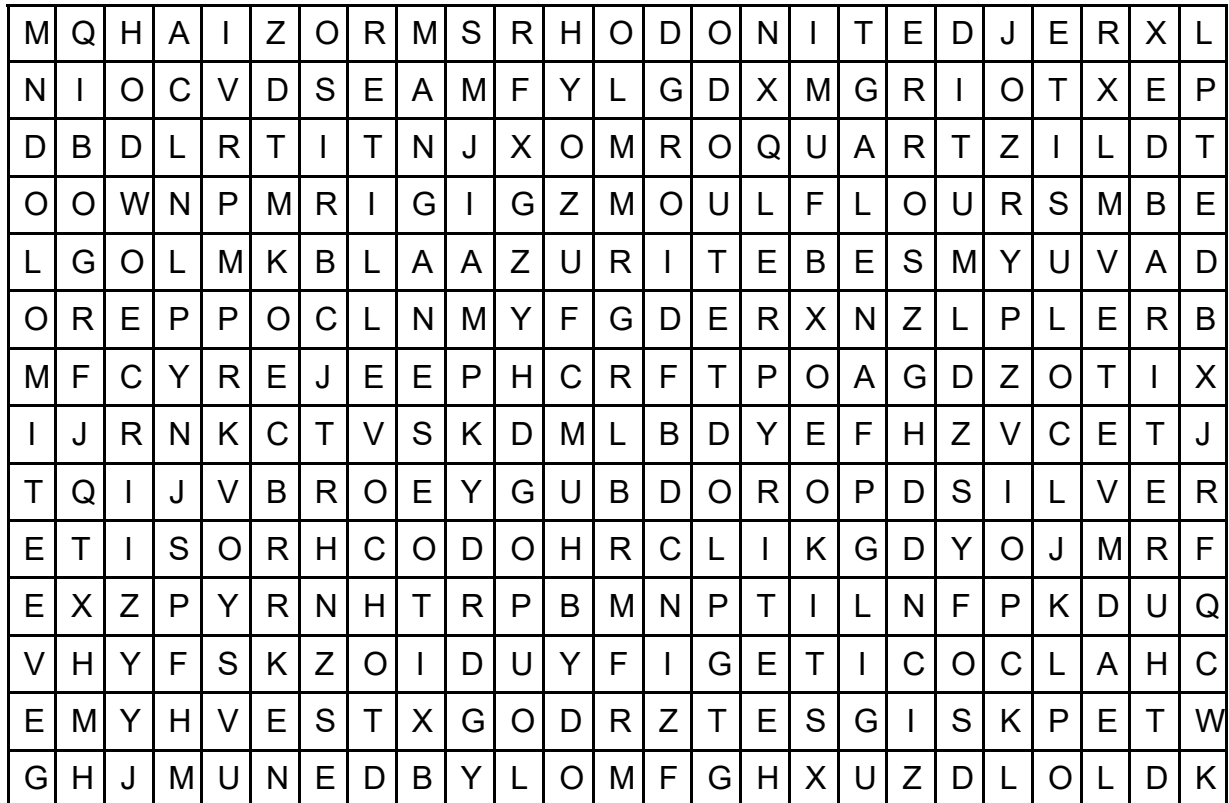
**Specific Gravity:** 6.9- 7.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Crystal System:** Hexagonal

**Uses:** Zinc is used in a variety of special alloys including brass, bronze, nickel silver, soft solder, spring brass, and aluminum solder. We also consume zinc for proper growth and development.

**Other Interesting Facts:** The name zinc is from the German words *zink*, *zinken* and *zincum* meaning tooth-like, pointed or jagged.

# Butte Mineral Word Search



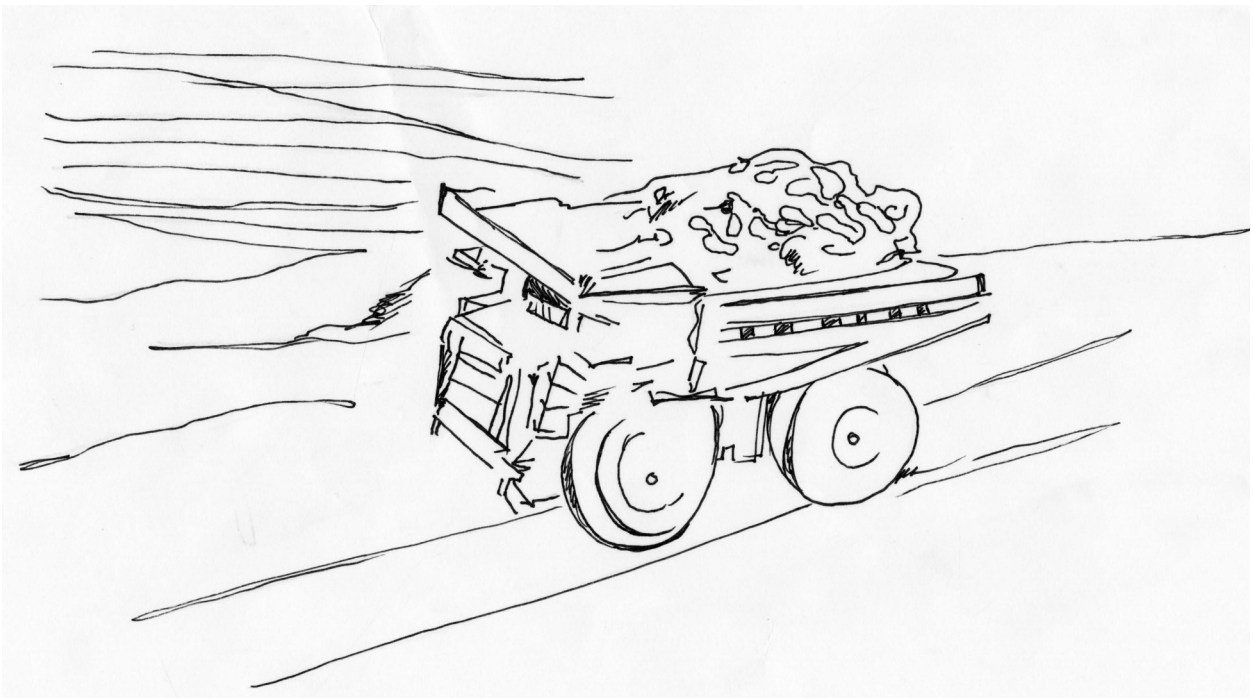
Azurite  
 Barite  
 Bornite  
 Chalcocite  
 Colusite  
 Copper  
 Covellite  
 Dolomite  
 Galena

Gold  
 Lead  
 Manganese  
 Molybdenum  
 Pyrite  
 Quartz  
 Rhodochrosite  
 Silver  
 Zinc



# Mineral Hunt

1. What mineral was first discovered in Butte in 1864? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What mineral was named after a mine in Butte, MT? \_\_\_\_\_
3. This headframe can be visited at the World Museum of Mining. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the mineral that is a major ore for lead and silver. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which Copper King discovered that copper would be a better alternative than silver? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which Copper King once owned the Travona? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name the mineral whose name is derived from the Greek words for “rose” and “coloring”. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What mineral do humans consume for proper growth and development?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Name the alloy created when mixing tin and copper. \_\_\_\_\_
10. What mineral helps us fight cavities? \_\_\_\_\_



# Existing Headframes

**Over 500 headframes once stood in Silver Bow County.**

**17 remain.**

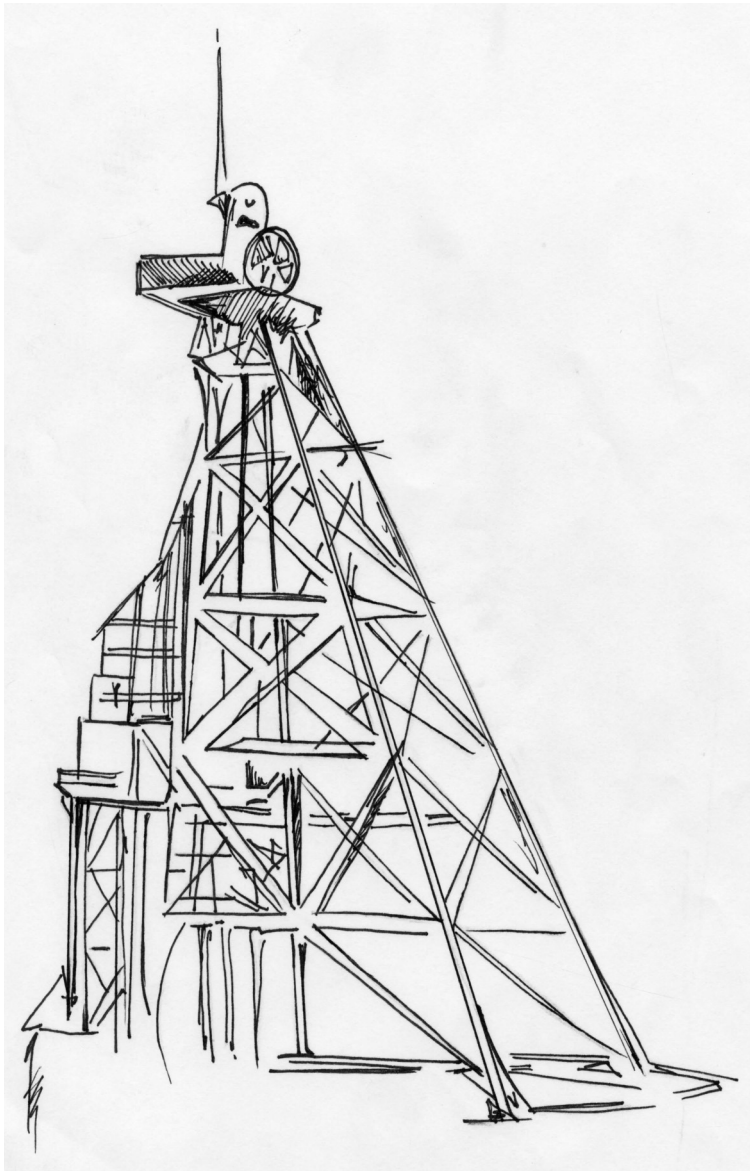
1. **Orphan Girl** (1875-1956) - 3200 feet deep. Produced silver, zinc, and lead. Originally owned by Daly and was eventually operated by the Anaconda Company. The Orphan Girl can be visited at the World Museum of Mining.
2. **Travona** (1874-1954) - 1500 feet deep. Originally named the Asteroid, staked by William L Farlin. Silver reestablished Butte after gold supply dwindled. Mr. Farlin had to take a loan out from the Bank of Clark. When Farlin defaulted on his loan, ownership transferred to William Clark who changed the name to Travona after a province in the Balkin states. Travona was one of the mines that helped Clark get his start in Butte.
3. **Anselmo** (1887-1959) - 4301 feet deep. Produced zinc and copper. The Anselmo is currently owned by Butte Silver-Bow county and is one of the most intact mine yards in Butte.
4. **Lexington** (c.1876-1957) 3260 feet deep. Produced silver and zinc.
5. **Badger State** (1883-1966) 4169 feet deep. Produced copper predominantly.
6. **Granite Mountain** (1887-1944) 3700 feet deep. The Speculator fire of 1917 began in one of the shafts of the Granite Mountain. 168 men lost their lives in this fire which marked this disaster as one of the most deadly hard rock mining events in the United States.
7. **Bell-Diamond** (1882-1928) 3500 feet deep. Originally owned by William Clark who eventually sold the Bell-Diamond to the Anaconda Company. This is one of the oldest headframes left standing.
8. **Mountain Con** (c.1886-1974) 5380 feet deep. Produced mostly copper. The Mountain Con mine is the deepest in Butte and gave Butte the phrase, "Mile High, Mile Deep".
9. **Steward** (1885-1971) 4600 feet deep. Produced silver and copper and was originally owned by William Clark.
10. **Original** (1878-1940) 3900 feet deep.
- 11 **Belmont** (1900-1956) 4300 feet deep. Produced copper. Temporarily closed in 1956 due to declining copper prices. The market for copper never quite recovered in order for the Belmont to resume mining.

12. **Kelley No 1 Mine** (1949-1980) 4810 feet deep. The Kelley No 1 is the youngest and tallest on the hill and was the last mine to close. It was also the first block caving mine in the Butte district.

13. **Kelley No 2** – Service Shaft Tramway to the Kelly.

14. **Pilot Butte** – Production mine that was converted to an air shaft for the Badger Mine.

15. **Parrot One** – In 1876, 160 feet deep. Produced copper. Discovered by Dennis Leary in 1864 making it one of the first in Butte, and was named after a lawyer. The steel headframe was moved to the Neversweat Mine and replaced with a wooden one which still exists at the Parrot site.



16. **Modoc** Burned two weeks before the Speculator became an airshaft and was part of the Mountain Consolidated Group.

17. **Parnell** Wooden headframe still stands. The Parnell was a major ore producer until the 1920s. Then it became an air shaft for the Mountain View.

*Answers to Mineral Hunt:*

1. Gold; 2. Colusite; 3. Orphan Girl; 4. Galena; 5. Marcus Daly; 6. William Clark; 7. Rhodochrosite; 8. Zinc; 9. Bronze; 10. Fluorite

**Thank you to the following for their contributions**  
**Minerals of Butte, Montana:**

Jana Braeutigam - World Museum of Mining  
Jim Killoy - World Museum of Mining, Volunteer  
Rabeca Kopf - World Museum of Mining, 2012 Junior Docent  
Mineral Museum  
Beca Schnabel - World Museum of Mining 2013 Teen in Training  
Joe Slouber - World Museum of Mining, Volunteer

**Illustrations By:**

Jennifer duToit  
And Morgan Kersting

**For more information on the minerals in this book, visit:**

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