

First Look at Crystal Shapes

C:\a-StudioClassroom\minex09.doc; July 6, 2005

We are looking at some cardboard models and some wooden blocks. All are “ideal” representations of real crystals. They are grouped, and each group has some similarities in shape.

Six groups of models/blocks:

station #	models/blocks
1	three cardboard models
2	blocks 153, 153, 163
3	blocks 3, 10, 13
4	blocks 124, 141, 144
5	blocks 171, 174, 179
6	blocks 42, 52, 55
7	blocks 61, 65, 75

Look at all six groups of models/blocks and try to figure out what shape properties they have in common, if any. Use real words and be as specific as possible. Write down your answers.

Then, answer the following:

What does it mean if crystals of different minerals share some shape properties?