

## Calculating densities of rocks and minerals

**Problem 1:** You have a rock with a volume of  $15\text{cm}^3$  and a mass of 45 g. What is its density?

**Problem 2:** You have a different rock with a volume of  $30\text{cm}^3$  and a mass of 60g. What is its density?

**Problem 3:** In the above two examples which rock is heavier? Which is lighter?

**Problem 4:** In the above two examples which rock is more dense? which is less dense?

**Problem 5:** You decide you want to carry a boulder home from the beach. It is 30 centimeters on each side, and so has a volume of  $27,000\text{ cm}^3$ . It is made of granite, which has a typical density of  $2.8\text{ g/cm}^3$ . How much will this boulder weigh?

**Problem 6:** Rocks are sometimes used along coasts to prevent erosion. If a rock needs to weigh 2,000 kilograms (about 2 tons) in order not to be shifted by waves, how big (what volume) does it need to be? You are using basalt, which has a typical density of  $3200\text{ kg/m}^3$

**Problem 7:** A golden-colored cube is handed to you. The person wants you to buy it for \$100, saying that is a gold nugget. You pull out your old geology text and look up gold in the mineral table, and read that its density is  $19.3\text{ g/cm}^3$ . You measure the cube and find that it is 2 cm on each side, and weighs 40 g. What is its density? Is it gold? Should you buy it?

## Calculating Specific Gravity of Rocks and Minerals

**Problem 8:** You have a sample of granite with density  $2.8\text{ g/cm}^3$ . The density of water is  $1.0\text{ g/cm}^3$ . What is the specific gravity of your granite?

**Problem 9:** You have a sample of granite with density  $174.8\text{ lbs/ft}^3$ . The density of water is  $62.4\text{ lbs/ft}^3$ . What is the specific gravity of the granite now?