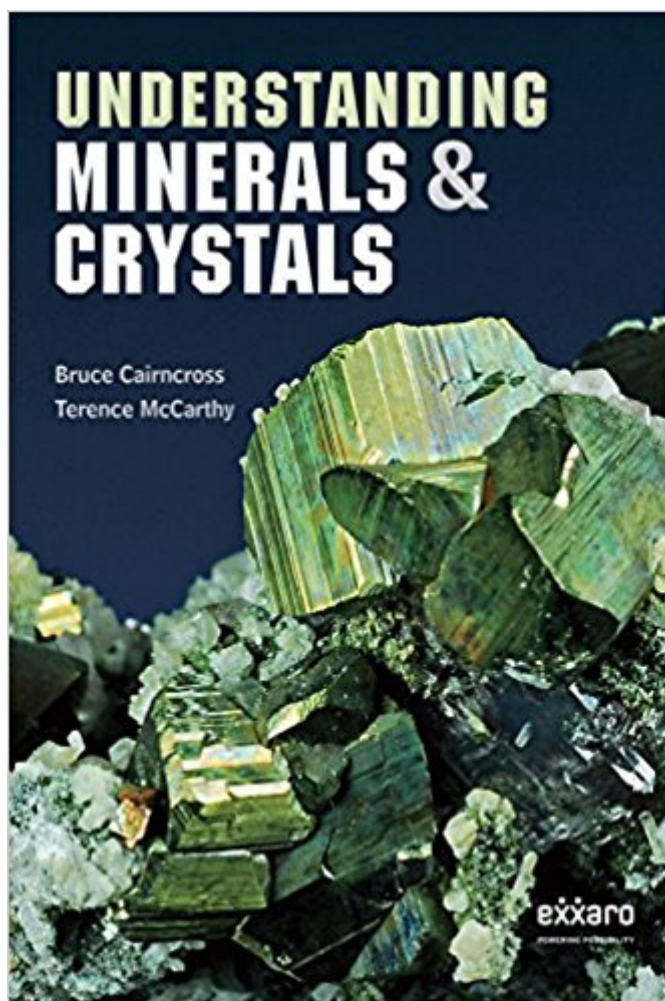


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# Understanding Minerals And Crystals



## Synopsis

Minerals are the building blocks of rocks – they make up the solid Earth’s crust. *Understanding Minerals & Crystals* takes a close look at minerals, how they form, why they differ and how to go about identifying them. It examines the nature of atoms and the way they bind together to form minerals with distinctive crystal structures; discusses the nature and classification of these crystals (with a mineral identification key); and offers detailed descriptions of some 80 common and important minerals, including how they were named, their properties, ID pointers, uses and where in the world they are found. All are lavishly illustrated with full-color photographs. This book will be invaluable to those interested in any of the earth sciences, or in mineral/crystal collecting – from academics and students to general enthusiasts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Professor Bruce Cairncross is head of the geology department at the University of Johannesburg. He has an inherent interest in Southern African mineralogy and geology, and his research efforts are aimed at documenting important geological sites and promoting the preservation of the region’s mineralogical heritage. He is the author of four books, *The Minerals of South Africa*, *The Manganese Adventure*, *The Desmond Sacco Collection - Focus on Southern Africa* and the *First Field Guide to Gemstones of Southern Africa*. He is consulting editor for an American journal, *Rocks & Minerals*, and is an accomplished photographer of minerals and gemstones.

Amazingly well-illustrated and bound book. Clearly sponsored by some South African mining entity, but who cares? Scholarly, clear. Just a terrific handbook. With lots of South African crystals!

Cairncross and McCarthy have made a very useful book. It is aimed at interested laypersons with some background in science. The book is also very useful for geology students. It goes into the bonding within minerals in a clear manner that most geology and mineralogy texts fail to address. The short blurbs on minerals are clear and sufficiently detailed. The photographs of minerals and graphics showing physical principles are excellent.

Goes into the chemistry and bonds in minerals and crystals, as well as giving information on the individual materials.

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