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# Geology in Your Kitchen

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Library Research Guide

## Abstract

This poster presentation provides an overview of print and digital resources available for Earth's mineral resources used to create items in your kitchen. Attendees will learn the differences (and similarities) of critical minerals, conflict minerals, rare earths, and other mineral terminologies used around the world in the contexts of sustainability and economic growth, as well as environmental considerations of mineral extractions, uses, and wastes in everyday life.

IUPAC Periodic Table of the Elements



For notes and updates to this table, see [www.iupac.org](http://www.iupac.org). This version is dated 4 May 2022. Copyright © 2022 IUPAC, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry.

## Library Research Sources for Education and Outreach

### Mineral Resources

Figure 1 – [Periodic Table of Elements](#)

Figure 2 – [The Rock Cycle](#)

- Figure 3 – Overview of Rocks in a Kitchen Counter – Natural Granite (or Engineered Stone)
- Refrigerator – Stainless Steel, Aluminum, Copper, Iron, Nickel, Petroleum Products, Zinc
- Stove – Burners, Natural Gas ;
- Microwave – Copper, Gold, Iron, Nickel, Silica
- Toaster – Copper, Iron, Nickel, Mica, Chromium, Petroleum Products
- Lights and Appliances – Electricity, Nuclear
- Stainless Steel Sink – Iron and Nickel
- Apples (and Rice) – Arsenic
- Table Salt – Halite
- Plates – Clays, Silica, Feldspar
- Cutlery – Iron, Nickel, Silver, Chromium
- Medicines :
  - Cold/Flu/Pain – Critical Minerals (Catalysis)
  - Upset Stomach – Bismuth
- Vitamins, Supplements – Calcium, Magnesium
- Pencil for Grocery List – Graphite
- Batteries for Technology – Cobalt, Lithium, Graphite

## Geology Terminologies

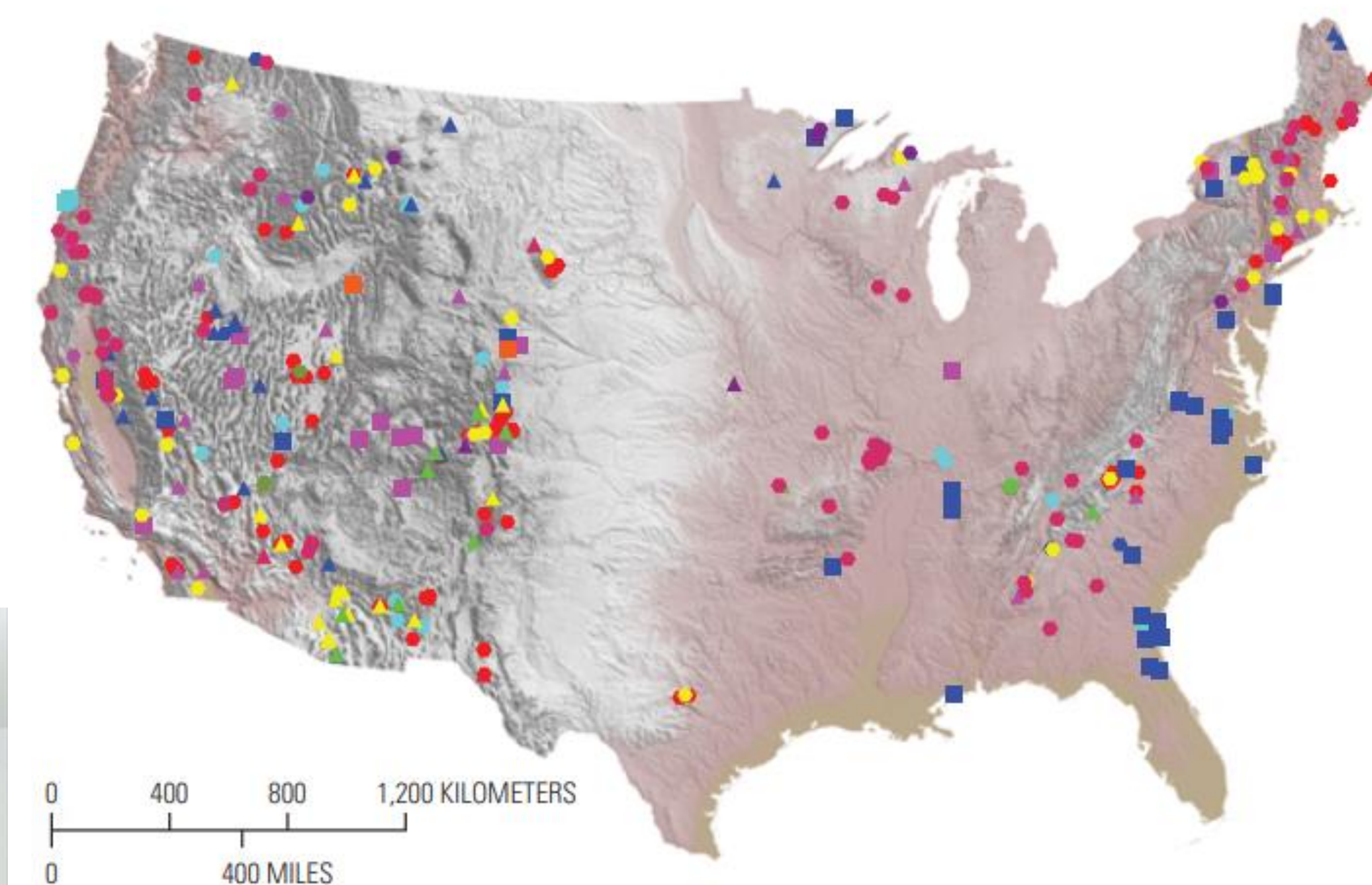
**Critical Minerals** – a non-fuel mineral or mineral material essential to the economic or national security of the U.S. and which has a supply chain vulnerable to disruption, [Figure 4](#)

Examples: Aluminum, Arsenic, Bismuth, Chromium, Cobalt, Graphite, Magnesium, Nickel, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Zinc, Zirconium

**Conflict Minerals** – minerals used to fund terrorists and other armed groups who seek to commit crimes and overthrow legitimate governments

Examples: Diamonds, Gold, Tin, Titanium

**Rare Earth Minerals** - bastnasite, monazite, and loparite and the lateritic ion-adsorption clays ; a relatively abundant group of 17 elements composed of scandium, yttrium, and the lanthanides



0 400 800 1,200 KILOMETERS  
0 400 MILES

### EXPLANATION Critical Minerals

- Antimony
- Barite
- Beryllium
- Cobalt
- Fluorite
- Gallium
- Germanium
- Graphite
- Indium
- Lithium
- Manganese
- Niobium and Tantalum
- Platinum Group Elements
- Rare Earth Elements
- Rhenium
- Tellurium
- Tin
- Titanium
- Vandium
- Zirconium

