

Made from Minerals Poster Contest

The Burlington Gem and Mineral Club (BGMC), in conjunction with its 2024 Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show in July, is sponsoring a poster contest for all interested middle school students. The theme of this year's show, and the theme of the poster contest, is "Made from Minerals." Participants should choose something in every-day life that is made from minerals - or the elements extracted from minerals - to create a poster depicting this theme.

About Us

The Burlington Gem and Mineral Club is a northern Vermont membership organization open to anyone interested in minerals, fossils, gems, and lapidary crafts. Club activities include presentations by club members and invited speakers, field trips to collect minerals and fossils, members-only auctions, and our Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show (link: <http://www.burlingtongemandmineralclub.org/show.html>) held each July.

Made from Minerals

Minerals, rocks, and the elements from which they are formed have always played an important role in human society. From the earliest stone tools of primitive *Homo sapiens* to our modern technologies, we have used rocks and minerals and their elements to accomplish every-day tasks. Today, minerals play an important role in our economy; they can be found in many products we use every day. Minerals are needed to make our homes, cell phones, automobiles, watches, radios, computers . . . even fireworks. For example, the element TIN is an ingredient in modern-day circuit board solders, and CASSITERITE is the mineral from which tin is extracted.

Poster Contest Details

Middle school participants can choose one of two poster types - technical or artistic. For the technical poster, participants should choose something in our economy that is made from minerals (or uses the elements extracted from minerals), research how these minerals/elements are acquired, and present information on their use in an original poster. The artistic poster offers a bit more freedom of expression. If you choose this option, create a colorful and creative poster that captures the theme of this year's contest - Made from Minerals.

Do some library research, dig for those important facts and interesting images, and display your findings in a poster that is original, colorful, informative and factual, and supports the theme of Made from Minerals.

Submission

To be considered for judging, posters must be submitted on the first day of the Champlain Valley Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, July 20 (doors open at 10:00 AM). All posters submitted will be displayed in our art gallery for the duration of the Show. Unfortunately, posters cannot be returned; all entries become the property of the Burlington Gem and Mineral Club.

Awards

The posters will be judged by the officers of the Burlington Gem and Mineral Club. Three awards will be given - gold, silver, and bronze - in each poster category (artistic or technical). The criterion by which posters will be judged are detailed below (see Technical Rubric AND Artistic Rubric).

The first place winner in each category will earn a one-year membership to the Club. In addition, the top three finishers in each category will receive a fossil or mineral specimen selected by the BGMC. The winners and their posters will also be presented in our award-winning monthly newsletter.

Further Guidelines

To be considered in the competition, the following information must accompany every poster submitted on July 20:

- Full Name of Student:
- School Attended:
- Grade:
- Contact Information:
(phone or email of parent/guardian is recommended)
- The poster category chosen (technical or artistic)

Posters should be an original creation presenting information about how minerals (and elements from those minerals) are used in today's economy. Students are encouraged to find something they are personally interested in, and research how minerals make that something possible. The art and information should be presented in a poster no smaller than 8 ½" by 14" (legal sized paper) and no larger than 18" x 24". This is not a school project, but the highest scholastic expectations apply - all resources used should be appropriately cited, information should be presented in the student's own words.

Technical Rubric

Scoring Criteria	Excellent (16-20 pts.)	Acceptable (12-15pts.)	Minimal (8-11 pts.)
Content	Well-written text and carefully chosen visual work together to effectively depict the theme of the contest - Made from Minerals.	Descriptive text and appropriate visuals work together to address the theme of the contest - Made from Minerals.	The text of the poster contains inaccuracies, and some of the visuals lack relevance or impact.
Accuracy and Citations	All the information presented in the poster is accurate and sources are referenced appropriately.	Most of the information in the poster is accurate and most of the sources are referenced.	There are obvious errors in the information presented, and references are insufficient.
Design	Logical and easy to read; type and visuals are neatly executed; layout compliments the content.	Fairly logical; type and visuals are mostly neat and easy to understand.	Somewhat disorganized; fails to complement content.
Creativity	Incorporates unique but pertinent ideas, design elements, visuals, and/or text that make the poster stand out	Contains some unique or imaginative elements	Contains some good, although not original, elements.
Score Totals:			

Artistic Rubric

Scoring Criteria	Excellent (16-20 pts.)	Acceptable (12-15pts.)	Minimal (8-11 pts.)
Content	The poster clearly articulates the theme of the contest - Made from Minerals. Information and imagery presented is accurate.	The poster addresses the theme of the contest. Information and imagery presented is mostly accurate.	The poster misses the theme of the contest, and/or the information and imagery is inaccurate.
Design and Layout	Incorporates unique but pertinent ideas, design elements, visuals, and text that make the poster engaging. Layout is unique and creative, logically organized, and compliments the content. Planned carefully with an effective use of space.	Interesting design elements, visuals, or text are used effectively. Layout compliments the content. There is apparent planning in the use of space.	Design elements and visuals are not effectively used or engaging. Layout shows little creativity or is unorganized. Ineffective use of space.
Artistry and Creativity	Images, pictures, clip art and drawn artwork are colorful, and appropriate to the topic. The presentation is neat, clean, well-organized and presented in a creative way.	Images, pictures, and clip art and drawn artwork are mostly colorful and appropriate. The presentation is mostly neat, clean, and well-organized.	Images, pictures, clip art, and drawn art are inappropriate, ineffective, and/or messy. The presentation is messy and unorganized.
Accuracy	All sources are clearly and appropriately referenced.	Most sources are appropriately referenced.	Sources are not referenced, or referenced inappropriately/ inaccurately.
Score Totals:			