

OPENING TITLES

MUSIC/SFX

HOST sitting at campsite

HOST (SYNC.):

At first glance, there's nothing particularly remarkable about this scene. These are objects you might see at any typical campsite. But there's a connection between them that goes beyond their obvious functions. Most of these items, as well as those that fill our daily lives, are made, at least in part, of minerals, the natural materials the earth is composed of.

Geologists define minerals as solid substances that are naturally occurring and inorganic, having nothing to do with living processes. Minerals also have a definite chemical composition in which the atoms are arranged in an orderly pattern called a crystalline structure. Thousands of different chemical compositions and crystalline structures occur in nature, and combinations of these result in thousands of mineral varieties

HOST stands

If we were to take away the objects around me that require minerals in their manufacture...

Objects begin to disappear

“EARTH REVEALED” - MINERALS - #12 - by Richard Bellikoff

...there would be very little left to look at...

Chair disappears

...or sit on.

HOST walks to rocky outcrop

Human society depends on the products it invents and manufactures, and minerals are the typical raw materials. The minerals we use to manufacture consumer products, and that are part of most any man-made object you can name, are also found here, in the rocks that make up the earth's crust.

Rocks are merely aggregates of one or more minerals. To better understand this relationship, let's use the analogy of a pizza. All of the individual pizza components... cheese, tomatoes, pepperoni, anchovies... Are combined in aggregate to form the whole pizza. Just as there are many different pizzas based on the combinations of ingredients, so there are a huge variety of rock types of different mineral composition.

HOST picks up mineral sample

Obviously, just from the standpoint of consumer goods, our lives would be very different without minerals. But the real importance of minerals extends far beyond the products we use in our daily lives.

DISSOLVE TO MAP OF THE WORLD with mineral concentrations shown in rich, vivid colors.