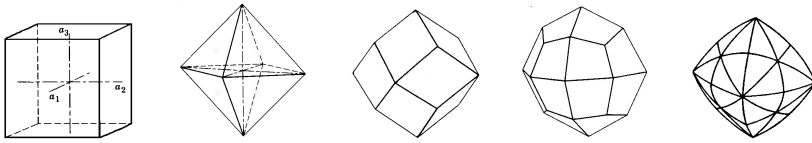


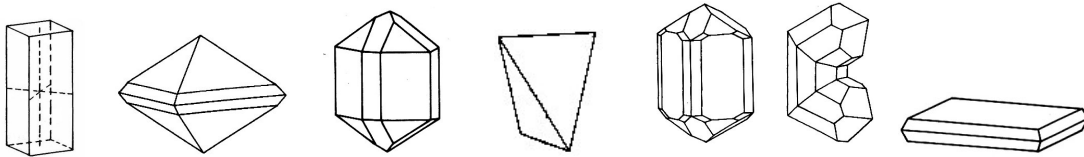
Identification of minerals can be difficult, due the variety of colors and shapes exhibited by the same mineral, when formed under different environments. However,

Crystal System alone is usually enough for identification (when visible) and considered along with other physical properties; since it can be one of six, and only six mathematical possibilities.



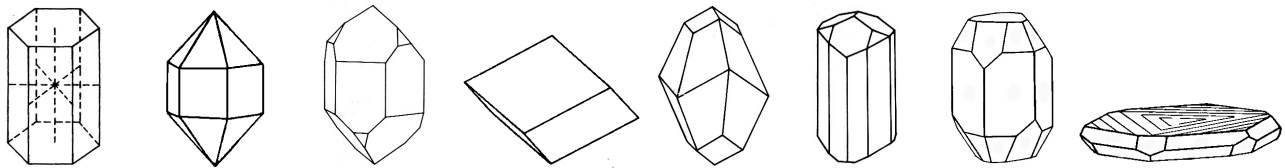
Examples: diamond, fluorite, garnet, gold & silver, pyrite, halite (salt) and sugar!

Isometric (cubic) - crystal axes are equal in length and at right angles to each other.



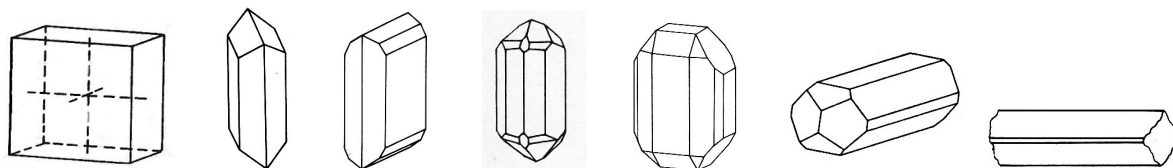
Examples: zircon, rutile, wulfenite

Tetragonal - same as cubic, except one axis is longer than the other two.



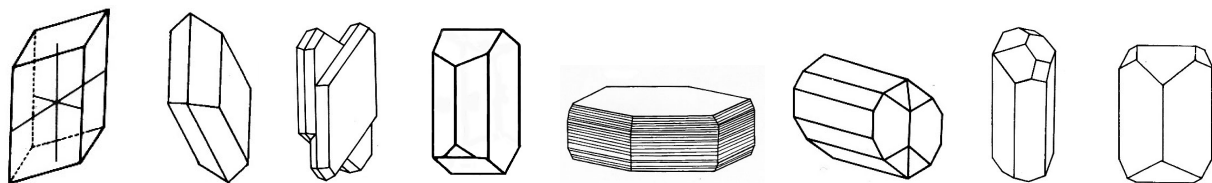
Examples: quartz, calcite, tourmaline, beryl (emerald), corundum (sapphire), hematite

Hexagonal - a three-fold or six-fold symmetry, all at right angles to a longer axis.



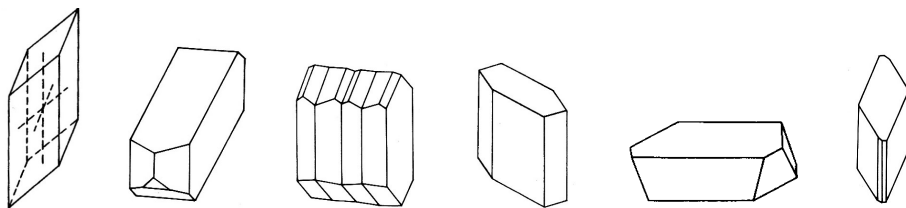
Examples: aragonite (hiPress Calcite), topaz, peridot/olivine, silliminite (hiTemp)

Orthorhombic - three axes at right angles, but all three are different lengths.



Examples: gypsum, orthoclase (K) feldspar, muscovite, epidote, hornblende, jade, sphene

Monoclinic - two axes at right angles, with a third at some inclined angle.



Examples: plagioclase (Na-Ca) feldspar, kyanite (loTemp), turquoise

Triclinic - all three unequal axes, inclined at something other than 90 degree