

Crystal chemistry

Ideas and evidence activity

What you do

Here are some statements from information written by people who think that crystals have special powers.

Read the statements, then in groups, agree on answers to the questions and then discuss the 'Debate' question. Be prepared to present your findings.

Comments about crystals...

'Quartz is powerful energy source which receives, activates, stores, transmits and amplifies energy.'

'Amethyst enhances psychic abilities.'

'Rose quartz is the love stone which adds positive energy to relationships.'

'A crystal can hold a memory so can be charged for specific healing activities.'

Crystal 'experiments'

Relaxation

'Pink Rose Quartz is said to calm the nerves. Try putting it under your pillow when you go to bed. You should have a thoroughly good night's sleep'.

Self-healing

'Purple amethyst is recommended for this. Dedicate a stone to healing and put it in your pocket. As you touch it during the day, it may help stimulate self-healing'.

Improve memory

'Take a double-pointed clear white quartz into an examination and it will help jog your memory. Keep it with you when you study, put it under your pillow at night and who knows, you may just pass that terrible exam'.

The healing 'power' of crystals...

Ancient civilizations have used crystals to help physical healing. This continues today. Ordinary people claim extraordinary results. No-one knows exactly how crystals 'work'. Some people believe that crystals can store and amplify any power source, such as emotional, physical or mental. Modern crystal therapists think that stones' abilities to act as conductors help focus energy through a person's thoughts, and that this stimulates healing.

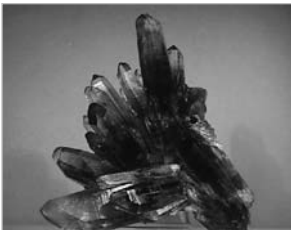
Use of crystals is not an exact science and there is controversy about which crystals are supposed to work for which conditions. Red, yellow and orange coloured crystals are thought to be energy-producing. Clear stones are 'healers', while purple and blue stones help create calm.

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Rose quartz

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Before using a crystal, cleanse it to make sure any stored energy is removed. Do this by soaking it or burying it in the ground. Don't let anyone else touch your crystal...

Questions

1. Why do some people think crystals have these powers?

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2. On what scientific evidence are the claims made?

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3. Identify incorrect scientific statements in the comments and say what the 'correct' science is.

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Debate

Can crystals have hidden powers?

Consider the claims made for crystals and also think about what scientists believe. What scientific evidence would you need?

