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ENVI.2010 - Principles of Earth & Environmental Systems I

Study Questions VI

Minerals and Rocks

1. Distinguish between atoms and ions.

2. Define mineral.

3. List in order of abundance (wt. %) the eight most abundant elements in the earth’s crust.

4. What are silicate minerals? What is the basic building block of a silicate mineral?

5. What is a rock. Define the three major types of rocks.

6. Draw the rock cycle. Show the various short cuts. Why is this cycle considered to be a simplistic representation?