

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #92



Quartz

Quartz is a very durable mineral. It cannot be easily scratched. It is made from two elements (like ingredients) called silicon and oxygen. It can be many colors including pink, white, yellow, and purple. Quartz is inside many different types of rocks. It is the second most abundant mineral on earth. When God designed quartz, he made something both beautiful and very useful.

Purple quartz is called amethyst



HAS A ROCK EVER STOPPED YOU IN YOUR TRACKS?

This week, my husband and I were hiking in the mountains when a field of white and pink rocks caught my attention. I was in an area where collecting is allowed, so I began choosing some of the rocks to bring home. What I had found was quartz. As I collected it, I lost sense of time. After a while, I looked up and my husband and our dog were well ahead on the trail. Quartz stopped me in my tracks and caused me to lose sense of time, which is funny because quartz helps people keep track of time. It is used in many clocks and watches. Quartz clocks have a tiny quartz crystal inside. When the clock battery sends it a small jolt of electricity, the crystal vibrates (wiggles) at a very steady speed. A small computer chip counts those wiggles. After it counts 32,768 tiny wiggles, it says, "That's one second!" and sends a pulse to move the hands (or change the numbers on a digital display). Quartz vibrates at a very exact rhythm, so the clock keeps accurate time.

I took my collection of quartz home, washed each piece, and put them in a basket. I plan to create quartz art out of it to remind myself of the beautiful hike we enjoyed, and what a joy it is to spend time in God's creation.

God's Word has a lot to say about time, especially how important it is. Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." When we remember our time is limited, we can view it as a gift and spend it well. God designed quartz in a way that can help us track time with clocks and watches. In a similar way, all of God's creation can help us spend time wisely. Every time we step outside, explore creation, and learn about what God has made, we are spending time wisely. Why not choose to enjoy more time in God's creation this week?