



Minerals

Microcline

$KAlSi_3O_8$ (Feldspar Group)

Crystallography:

Triclinic; $\bar{1}$. Crystal habit similar to orthoclase. Usually polysynthetically twinned on both the albite and pericline laws, giving characteristic grating or gridiron structure. Found in masses, crystals, and irregular grains.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {001} perfect, {010} good. Fracture uneven; brittle.

Hardness: 6.0.

Specific Gravity: 2.54-2.57.

Luster: Vitreous.

Color: White, pink, and green Transparent to translucent.

Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

A K-feldspar mineral distinguished from orthoclase by its twinning. Most green feldspars are microcline.

Occurrence/Use:

A common K-feldspar of pegmatite and hydrothermal veins. Prominent in granites and syenites that cooled slowly and at considerable depth. Also present in some arkoses, conglomerates, and gneisses. Used principally in the manufacture of glass, porcelain, and enamel.