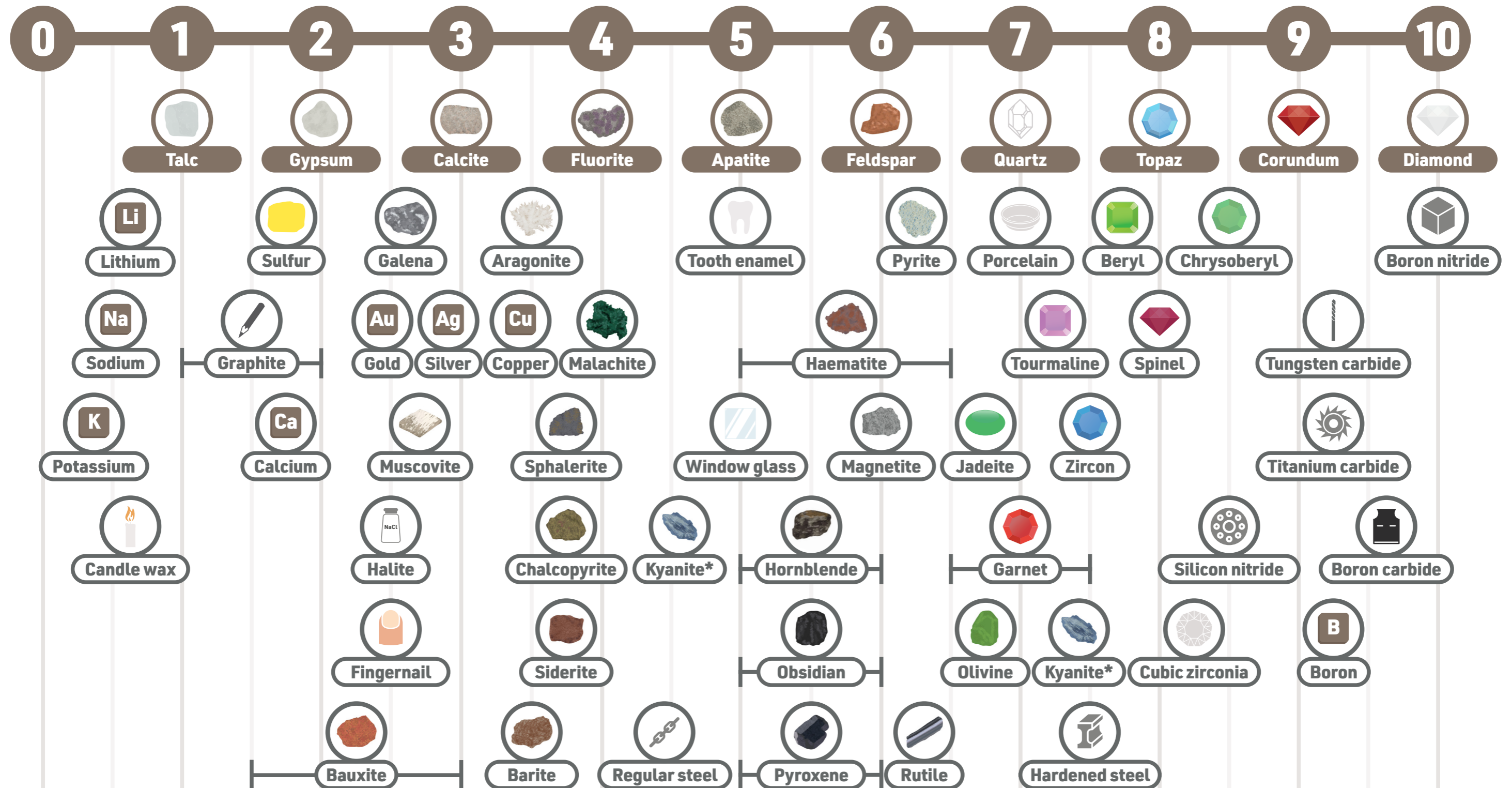


# The Mohs Mineral Hardness Scale

German Geologist Friedrich Mohs introduced the Mohs hardness scale in 1812. It is based on the ability of one mineral to scratch another: a mineral that scratches another will be above that mineral in the scale. The scale is a relative ranking, with no fixed difference in hardness between each point on the scale.



\* Kyanite's hardness differs depending on the direction in which it is tested – softer when tested parallel to crystals, and harder when tested perpendicular.