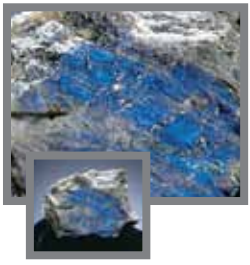

Minerals

Labradorite

(Ca,Na) Al (Al,Si) Si_2O_8 (An_{30-70}) (Feldspar Group) (see also Plagioclase)

Crystallography:

Triclinic; $\bar{1}$. Crystals usually tabular parallel to {010}; twinning frequent as in albite. Commonly in irregular grains and cleavable masses.

Physical Properties:

Cleavage: {001} perfect, {010} good. Fracture uneven to conchoidal; brittle.
Hardness: 6.0.
Specific Gravity: 2.71.
Luster: Vitreous to pearly.
Color: Colorless, white, gray; sometimes greenish, bluish, yellowish, or reddish. Often iridescent with play of colors. Transparent to subtranslucent.
Streak: White.

Composition/Features:

Labradorite is an aluminosilicate of the plagioclase feldspar group, and forms as an intermediate member of a solid solution series extending from albite (Na-rich) to anorthite (Ca-rich). Like other group members, it is characterized by twinning striations on basal cleavages and by its relative hardness. Accurate identification can only be done by quantitative chemical of X-ray analyses or optical tests.

Occurrence/Use:

Labradorite is the common feldspar in gabbros, basalts, and anorthosites. Is iridescent and used as a gem stone.