



Occurring as elongated, flattened blades, kyanite is primarily blue to blue-gray in color and can form large, striking crystals. Kyanite's former name, disthene (meaning "two strengths"), refers to its variable hardness. Kyanite has a hardness of about 4.5 when scratched parallel to the c-axis (long axis) but has a hardness of 6 when scratched perpendicular to this axis. In practice, this means a crystal can be scratched by steel or glass along its length, but not along its width. This is the only mineral known to have this type of differential hardness. P21