

Activity—Rock Hounds

Standard II
 Students will gain an understanding of Earth and Space Science through the study of earth materials, celestial movement, and weather.

Objective 1
 Describe the characteristics of different rocks.

Intended Learning Outcomes
 Knowing In Science: Understandg the nature of science.

Content Connections: Language Arts

Invitation to Learn

Ask students, “What is sand?”

Instructional Procedures

1. Look at sand with hand lenses. Help students discover that sand is a lot of itty-bitty rocks.
2. Read *Everybody Needs a Rock*. Discuss some of the rock attributes presented (e.g., size, color, shape, and texture).
3. Select a rock and study it. Have students help describe it. Introduce and discuss other rock attributes such as hardness, patterns, crystals, etc. Complete the description of the rock.
4. Put students into small groups of three or four. Have them select a rock, and then describe and classify their rocks. Write down the descriptions and pool all the rocks together again.
5. Have groups move to a new group location. Students should choose a description and try to find the rock it goes with.

Extensions/Adaptations

Keep a list of the attributes listed so students can see how the words are spelled. If necessary, buddy up students so they have a resource to help with spelling and reading.

Assessment

Can students describe rocks using appropriate terminology?

Additional Resources

Rocks by Brenda Parkes (Newbridge Discovery Links)

Family Connections

Look for rocks at home and practice describing their attributes.

Connections

Materials

- Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor
- colored sand and glue
- assorted rocks
- classifying grid
- hand lenses

Looking at Rocks

Black	Brown	Red
Dull	Smooth	Soft
Shiny	Rough	Hard

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