

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade 4<sup>th</sup> Day  
Science Literacy Connection 2

## Characteristics of Rocks

**Standard 2:** Earth and Space Science. Students will gain an understanding of Earth and Space Science through the study of earth materials, celestial movement, and weather.

**Objective 3:** Describe the characteristics of different rocks.

1. Explain how smaller rocks come from the breakage and weathering of larger rocks.
2. Describe rocks in terms of their parts (e.g. crystals, grains, cement).
3. Sort rocks based upon color, hardness, texture, layering, particle size and type (i.e. igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary).

## Language Arts Connection

### Cool Rock Tests Online

This computer app will allow students to perform rock tests that they would not be able to do in most classrooms. They will see if it is permeable (explain that means soaks up water) whether it splits, floats or “wears well” (is soft or hard, resists abrasion).

### Materials:

Computer lab with updated Java for:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/7\\_8/rocks\\_soils.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/7_8/rocks_soils.shtml)

student sheet (below) and pencil

### Instructions

1. Ask students to perform the tests by lifting each rock up into the container.
2. They “pull” the lever and see what happens.
3. They should record their results on their student sheets.
4. Ask each student to write a summary statement about each test.

<p>Test: Is it permeable (Does it soak up water?)</p> <p>Write yes or no:</p> <p>Slate Marble Chalk Granite Pumice</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>I found _____ was the most _____.</p> <p>I found _____ was the least _____.</p>	<p>Test: Does it split?</p> <p>Write yes or no:</p> <p>Slate Marble Chalk Granite Pumice</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p>
<p>Test: Does it wear well?</p> <p>Write yes or no:</p> <p>Slate Marble Chalk Granite Pumice</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p>	<p>Test: Does it float?</p> <p>Write yes or no:</p> <p>Slate Marble Chalk Granite Pumice</p> <p>Summary:</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p> <p>I found _____ was the _____.</p>