

2nd Grade 5th Day
Science Content 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).

Rocks Come in Sizes

Big Ideas

- Chunks of rocks come in many sizes and shapes, from boulders to grains of sand and even smaller.

Materials

A selection of rocks, magnifying glass, water, sandpaper, hammer, metal washers

Testing and Experimenting

Students can conduct a simple experiment (making predictions, gathering data and forming conclusions) to determine how smaller rocks can form from the breakage of larger rocks. Students can share their findings in the form of posters, reports, journals, graphs, etc.

1. Using age-appropriate tools, students can examine rock samples and describe their parts. The products could include: drawings, charts, journals, or classroom books.
2. Rocks can be tested for hardness and softness.
 - Scrape each of your rocks three times with the washer.
 - Do this on different places of your paper.
 - Look to see how much rock dust (sediments) came off each rock.
 - Put each rock by its sediment pile.

Making Conclusions

Once you have completed your test you can come up with conclusions.

- Why do you think rocks are rough?
- Why do you think rocks are smooth?
- How do you know which rocks are soft?
- How do you know which rocks are hard?
- How are rocks alike and different?