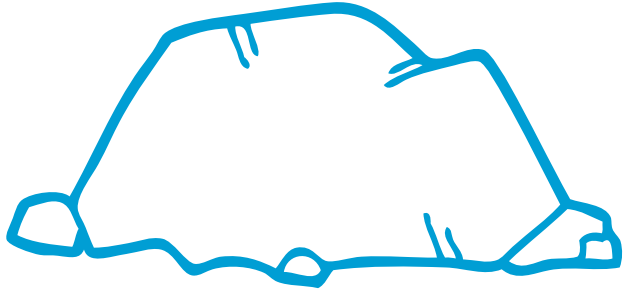


ACTIVITY 5: ROCK HUNTING IN YOUR COMMUNITY



The purpose of this multi-day* project is to engage students in an immersive exploration of rocks and minerals in their local community, while developing their observation, research, and presentation skills. **Note: this project can be extended over the course of several days, weeks, or months as you choose to adapt it.*

Materials:

- Notebooks or science journals
- Pencils or pens
- Rulers (for measurements)
- Magnifying glasses or hand lenses
- Collection bags or boxes for rocks
- Digital cameras or smartphones (optional)

First, inform students that they will be conducting a research project to learn about the rock types in their local community.

Next, allow students to find partners to work with on the project and give students time to plan their project according to the given framework.

Then, create opportunities for students to work on their project in, and outside of, class time. Provide checkpoints at scheduled times to help students chunk the project and stay on track.

Last, when the research projects are completed. Allow students the opportunity to present their findings to the class.

Project Framework

The aim of this project is for students to learn about the rocks present in their area by researching their geographic area, rock hunting in their community, accurately identifying and classifying the rock types they find, recording detailed observations, and presenting their findings to others.

1. Introduction and Background Research

- Give students time to plan out in which area(s) (e.g., parks, beaches, riverbeds, or hiking trails) they will rock hunt and to research the common types of rocks to find in that region
- Have them come up with a collection plan, schedule, and map to track rocks
- Be sure to inform and involve parents about this project so that students can explore their community in safe ways

2. Rock Identification and Collection

- Encourage students to observe and record the location, appearance, color, texture, and any visible minerals or patterns on the rocks they collect.
- They can also take photographs to document their discoveries.

3. Research and Classification

- In class or at home, students research and identify their rocks and then classify the rocks based on what they've learned.

4. Presentations

- Students make a presentation to show their rocks, research, and classifications, followed by their favorite rock's details and interesting facts.
- They might present their projects to classmates, teachers, or parents.

5. Reflection and Conclusion

- Have students summarize class findings and recap their learning