

# Rock Exploration

(Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

1 hour

Students explore various rocks as they compare size, color, and texture while looking for evidence of life. Students also gain an understanding of the importance of rocks in soil formation. Students create their own pet rocks!

## Grade Level Expectations in Science:

1.1.1 - Identify, describe, and sort objects and materials using observed physical properties such as hardness, shape, state of matter, smell, temperature, texture, weight, and magnetic properties.

1.1.5 - Sort rocks based on size, shape, and other physical properties (e.g., color and texture).

1.2.3 - Show that people use magnifiers to observe things they cannot see with their eyes.

1.3.4 - Describe how rocks can break down into small pieces (e.g., pebbles and sand) by the action of water.

1.3.5 - Identify a fossil in a rock.

Compare fossils (that represent the remains of prehistoric plants and animals) with similar living organisms (e.g., a fossil leaf with a leaf, a fossil shell with a shell).

1.3.9 - Observe and record how fossils are similar to living organisms (e.g., leaves, shells).

2.1.1 - Wonder and ask questions about objects, organisms, and events based on observations of the natural world.

2.1.2 - Make observations and record characteristics or properties.

Collect data using simple equipment and tools that extend the senses (e.g., magnifiers, rulers, balances, scales, and thermometers).

Follow all safety rules during investigations.

2.2.2 - Raise questions about the natural world and seek answers by making careful observations and trying things out.



Students investigating different rocks



Pet rock with certificate of ownership