



Vocabulary

Metamorphic: Formed when the original rock is subjected to heat and pressure, causing physical or chemical change

Igneous: formed through the cooling and solidification of magma or lava

Sedimentary: formed by the accumulation or deposition (building up) of small particles and subsequent cementation (gluing together) of mineral or organic particles on the floor of oceans or other bodies of water at the Earth's surface.

Hardness: determined by observing the ease or difficulty with which one mineral is scratched by another. A fingernail has a hardness of 2.5. If the rock can be scratched with a fingernail, it is softer than 2.5. If it cannot be scratched by a fingernail, then it is harder than 2.5. Diamonds are the hardest mineral we know of.



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Activities to do with Rocks!

Once you learn to look closely, you can find so many different things to look at in rocks! They are truly amazing, and offer a lot in ways of education and nature exploration. Here are a few activities you can do with rocks!

Sort the rocks! Whether by size, shape, color, luster, texture, or anything else you can think of, sorting rocks is a great way to practice comparing and contrasting, and even graphing!



Make art! There is something really cool called ephemeral art. It's art made in nature, by you! Ephemeral means temporary, or not meant to last. Use your creativity and make some art with rocks!



Split Rocks! Lots of rocks look different on the inside than they do on the outside. To see inside, place the rock on a hard, flat surface and hit it with a hammer or by dropping another, bigger and heavier rock, on to it, you may just be able to break it open and see what's inside!

This activity needs to be done with an adult present and safety goggles or other eye protection



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Rock Scavenger Hunt!

Luster

- Sparkly
- Sparkly WITH layers
- Dull



Special Features

- Rock within a rock
 - Fossil
 - Layers
- Large particles (Crystals)



Colors

- Solid Color
- Dark grey or black
- Light color
- Red or pink
- 3 or more colors in one rock



Texture

- Feels scratchy like sandpaper
 - Feels smooth



Hardness

- Could be broken when dropped
- Could NOT be broken when dropped
- Rubs off on your hands

Remember!

You can test hardness by hitting the rock with a hammer. But remember to wear safety goggles and to ask a parent for help

