

Campbell Creek Science Center

Go Rockhounding

Amateur geologists are sometimes called “rockhounds.” They make a hobby out of examining rocks and minerals. Channel your inner geologist and get to know the rocks around you.

Directions

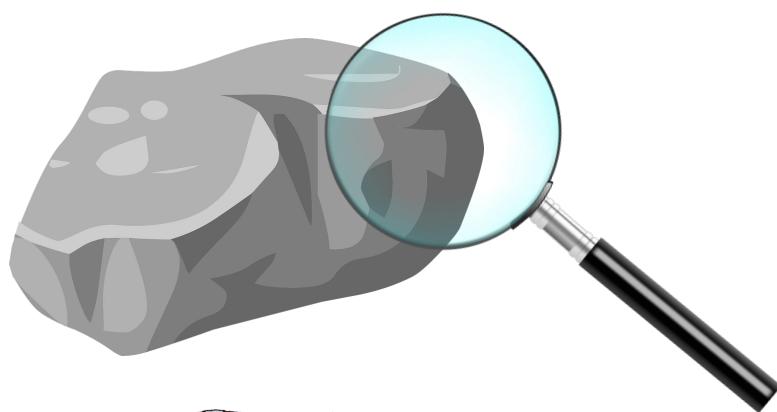
1. Go out and look for interesting rocks. Gather a few of them together.
2. Wash the dirt from the rocks with water and an old toothbrush.
3. Look at the rocks closely. Use a hand lens if you have one. What features do you notice? How are the rocks similar or different from each other?
4. Write notes about the rocks in the data sheet, including where you found it, what is interesting about it, and how it compares to other rocks. Fill out as many of the characteristics geologists pay attention to as you can, such as how it formed and its color, texture, hardness, and kind of rock.
5. Draw a picture of each rock and its features.

Materials

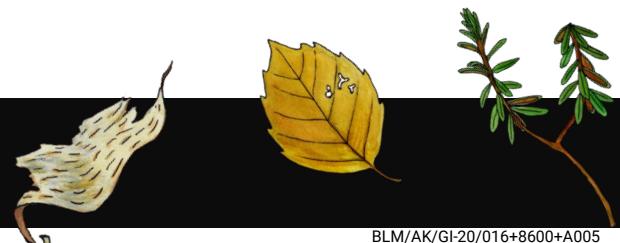
- Old toothbrush
- Hand lens (optional)
- Small notebook or data sheet
- Pen or pencil
- Container of water

Questions

- Where did you find the greatest variety of rocks?
- What does the appearance of a rock tell you about its past?



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Rockhounding Tips:

- * Be safe when searching for rocks.
- * Make sure you have permission from the landowner when looking for rocks.
- * Leave the rocks behind when you are done looking at them.



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Use this data sheet to guide your rockhounding experience. Remember to put the rocks back where you found them after taking notes.

Rock #	How it Formed	Drawing:
Location:	Color	
	Texture	
Notes:	Hardness	
	Kind	
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How it Formed



- **Igneous:** formed when melted rock (magma or lava) cools and solidifies.
- **Metamorphic:** formed from other rocks changed by heat and pressure.
- **Sedimentary:** formed from layers of sand, silt, dead plants, and skeletons.

Color



What color is it?

Texture



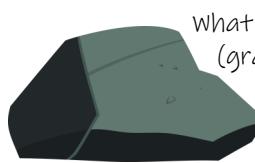
Does it flake?
Is it jagged or smooth?

Hardness



Is it hard or soft?
Can you scratch it with a penny or your fingernail?

Kind



What sort of rock is it?
(granite, sandstone, slate, etc.)

