

Rocks Are Different

Strategies

Focus activity

Graphic organizer

Standard

Physical Science—Understand properties of objects and materials.

Objective

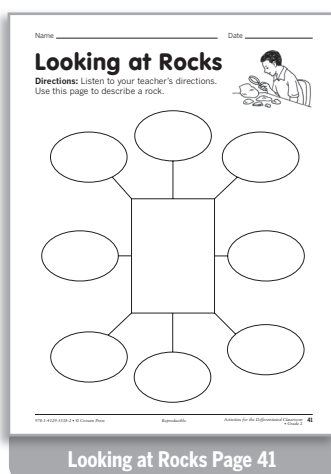
Students will observe and record descriptions of different kinds of rocks.

Materials

Looking at Rocks reproducible
rocks of various sizes, shapes, and colors
magnifying glasses

Use this focus activity to help students develop the ability to make careful observations as they investigate the properties of rocks.

1. Pair students with partners, and give each pair two copies of the **Looking at Rocks reproducible (page 41)**. Ask students to think of words that describe rocks. Have them write the word *rock* in the center of the web and write descriptive words in the surrounding ovals. Ask pairs to share their words with the class.
2. Display a collection of rocks in various sizes, shapes, and colors. Students may contribute found rocks to the collection.
3. Invite each pair to choose a rock and examine it closely with a magnifying glass. To stimulate students' thinking, ask questions such as: *How would you describe the rock? Does it have patterns? Is it all one material? Is it made up of smaller parts? Close your eyes and feel it. Is it rough, smooth, or both?*
4. Ask students to use the second Looking at Rocks reproducible to describe their chosen rock. Have them draw a picture of their rock in the center of the page and write words that describe their rock in the surrounding ovals.



Ideas for More Differentiation

Students with naturalist intelligence enjoy spending time outdoors. Have these students look for rocks at school or at home. Challenge them to find small rocks, rocks that are too heavy to lift, and rocks that are bigger than themselves. Ask them to draw pictures of the rocks they find. Students with visual/spatial talents can draw pictures of rocks and add a drawing of an object next to each rock to give an idea of its size.

Looking at Rocks

Directions: Listen to your teacher's directions. Use this page to describe a rock.

