



You Rock! - Categorizing Rocks by Their Attributes

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Science
Grades K-2



Introduction

Rough, smooth, flat, brown. These words are all attributes you could use to describe a rock. In this lesson students will be going on a rock hunt as they learn about describing rocks using attributes.

Learning Objectives

- ([2-PS1-1 Matter and Its Interactions](#)) Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.
- Summarize the physical properties of Earth materials, including rocks, minerals, soils, and water that make them useful in different ways.

Materials Needed

- Chart paper
- Open outdoor space to find rocks
- Paper and pencil
- Magnifying glasses (optional)

Procedure

1. Hold up a rock. Ask students to describe the rock. “Bumpy...rough...black...dirty...all the words you just used to describe this rock are called attributes.”
2. Write the word *Attributes* on the board. Then write *color*, *shape*, *size*, and *texture*. Ask students to tell you some colors that rocks might be. Write their answers next to your label “color”. Repeat with shape (round, flat, square), size (big, small, medium), and texture (bumpy, smooth).
3. Tell students that today they are going to go on a rock hunt on the playground. They are going to choose ONE rock they like the most. They will bring that rock back to the classroom to examine and describe.
4. Once students have found their rock, bring them back to the classroom. Pass out magnifying glasses, and give students time to really examine their rock. Then, have them draw a sketch of their rock on the paper. They should label their sketch with three or more attributes (referring them back to the attribute chart you created together).

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Evaluation

- Have students get into a circle with their rock. Have them go around the circle and share their rock as well as one attribute word they wrote on their paper.
- Have students turn in their drawings. Evaluate for completion of sketch with three attributes, participation in the circle time sharing, and overall cooperation during the lesson.