

Observation & Discussion ~ Types of Rock

- ❖ This lesson introduces students to the classification of rocks – what to look at and how to categorize. Students are also introduced to measuring in centimeters if they have not learned so already.

Before the Lesson:

1. Print this Lesson.
2. Conduct science outside, whenever possible – check the lesson type and the weather.
3. Gather and prep materials.

Materials Needed:

- Many different kinds of rocks (20 per student or student team)
- Rulers to share
- 1 sheet of paper or Science Journal per student
- Optional:* pictures and books about igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.



In Class:

1. Class Observation:
 - Ask students what kinds of rocks they have at home.
 - How would they describe their rocks? (color, size, shape, texture)
 - Pass out the rocks to students and ask them to look at the rocks and describe what they see.
 - Allow students to describe their rocks.
 - Ask students to group the rocks by color and texture.
2. Class Processing:
 - Have students write “Color” at the top of their paper and list the colors of rocks they have.
 - Have students write “Texture” below their list of colors and write textures they found (smooth, rough, porous).
 - Have students choose their largest and smallest rock to outline and measure on their paper. Explain centimeters, if necessary.
3. Class Discussion:

- Invite students to look more closely at rocks this week, especially as they complete **2-3 Activity A**.
- Encourage students to use their Science Journals as they explore rocks.

Student Sample:

