Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!

SCIENCE 2 GO

Explore your world with this Science-to-Go backpack

ROCKS

Grades 3-5

Books in this backpack

- **Explore Rocks and Minerals!**
  by Cynthia Light Brown
- **Everything Rocks and Minerals**
  by Steve Tomecek
- **A Rock is Lively**
  by Dianna Hutts Aston
- **Rocks and Minerals**
  by Dan Green
- **Rocks in His Head**
  by Carol Otis Hurst

More books at your library

Let's Go Rock Collecting. Roma Gans. E552.0075
Rocks & Minerals. R. F. Symes. J552
Rocks and Minerals. Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. E552
Smashing Science Projects About Earth's Rocks and Minerals. Robert Gardner. J552.078

Local Connection

Collect rocks from a local beach. Compare the rocks to those found around your house. What differences do you see right away?

Pierce County Library System
Information & Imagination

sciencetogo.pcls.us 253-548-3300 • Washington Relay TTY 711 • 11/16 (150)

ACTIVITY

Rock Class

You're welcome to keep this sheet!

Rocks have different properties based on what materials they are made of. Some properties that geologists think about when classifying rocks are color, luster and hardness. You can do the same thing with a rock from your neighborhood!

What you need:

- Penny
- Steel nail
- Glass plate or pocket mirror
- Colored pencils/crayons

Try this:

1. Go outside and hunt for the perfect rock.
2. Draw your rock. Label it by color and luster. "Luster" means how the rock shines. Luster words include: dull, metallic, shiny, glassy, pearly and silky.
3. All rocks fall on a 1–10 scale developed by Friedrich Mohs in 1812. It is super simple. The softest rock, talc, is a "1" on the hardness scale - all rocks can scratch talc. The hardest rock, diamond, is a "10" – no rock can scratch a diamond. Everything else falls in between. Use the following common materials to estimate the hardness of your rock:

   Hardness: Fingernail – 2.5, Penny – 3, Nail – 5.2, Glass – 5.5

   If your fingernail can scratch the rock, it is less than 2.5 on the hardness scale. If not, start trying to scratch the rock with the other materials.
   Write your hardness estimate in the field guide.

Going Further

Collect about 5 more rocks and organize them by hardness using the scratch test.