

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
THIRD GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Characteristics of 3 Types of Rocks

Theme: Earth/Space Science

Unit Number: **Unit Title:** Rocks, Minerals, Soil and Fossils

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S3E1. Students will investigate the physical attributes of rocks and soils.

a. Explain the difference between a rock and a mineral.

b. Recognize the physical attributes of rocks and minerals using observation (shape, color, texture), measurement, and simple tests (hardness).

d. Determine how water and wind can change rocks and soil over time using observation and research..

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Igneous rock
Metamorphic rock
Sedimentary rock

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will be introduced to the types of rocks by teaching and learning from their peers.

Details:

Divide the class into 3 groups. Randomly assign each group a rock type (igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary) and give them the information sheets on that type. Next, have one student from each group read the information aloud. Then, have one student per group write the name of the type of rock on the poster. After this, students can write relevant information and draw or paste pictures of their rock on their poster. Allow enough time for the students to completely fill their posters. When the posters are complete, have each group stand up and present their rock to the rest of the class.

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

- 3 sheets of poster board

- **Information sheets listing basic information about each type of rock - 1 set per group**
- **Pictures of each type of rock - 1 set per group**
- **Markers/colored pencils, paper, glue/tape, scissors - 1 set per group**
- **Optional: text books, other reference books**

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

- **Optional: Keep these posters on display in the classroom for the remainder of the unit.**
- **Optional: Give students a worksheet to accompany this activity.**
- **Tip: Make sure the information sheets are basic and interesting. Do not just print off a wordy website.**
- **Tip: If the students leave out or incorrectly state key points in their presentations, gently redirect their focus by questioning and encouraging them. Have them reference their books or information sheets if they do not know the answer to an important question. Remember, it is still your job as an instructor to make sure all key points are introduced to the rest of the class.**

Sources/References:

- 1) **Originally submitted by Amy Stone, edited by Jessica Valle (2010)**
- 2)
- 3)