

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 4 Lesson Plans

Earth and Space Science: Rocks and Minerals

Activity: Fossils (suggested time 90 minutes: 45 minute fossil activity/ 45 minute scavenger hunt)

Overall Curriculum Outcome: Learners will analyze rocks, minerals, and fossils in the local environment.

Specific Curriculum connections:

Properties of rocks and minerals

- How do various rocks from the local environment compare?
- How do minerals combine to make rocks?

Fossil formation

- How do fossils form?
- How do fossils help us learn about the past?

Classification

- How can local rocks and minerals be classified?
- How can classification help us learn about rocks and minerals?

Instructions/Activity:

Activity #1 (45 minutes)

Make a fossil

Materials:

- Tupperware container
- Modelling clay or Plasticine
- Shells or plastic toys
- Plaster of Paris
- Water

How to:

1. Cover the bottom of your Tupperware container with modelling clay to a depth of around 2 centimetres.
2. Press a few plastic animals, shells, or whatever else you'd like to fossilise, into the clay.
3. Remove the objects. This should leave an imprint of the object in the clay.
4. Mix a quarter of a cup of plaster of Paris with water, until it is quite runny.
5. Pour the plaster of Paris over the modelling clay to a depth of around 2 centimetres.
6. Let the plaster dry for 24 hours.
7. Remove the plaster from the Tupperware and remove any leftover bits of clay.

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Activity #2 (45 minutes)

Students are challenged to find rocks and minerals with the following characteristics (see organizer below).

This can be a hike-based activity or a free inquiry time around a chosen site.

Students return with their rocks for a show/share or gallery style share.

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Rocks and Minerals Treasure Hunt: Can you find the following rocks and minerals!?

Type	Sketch
Red	
Brown	
Grey	
purple	
Striped	
smooth	
rough	
bumpy	
Your favourite!	