

Everybody Needs a Rock: Classification Lesson

Include literature into your science classification of rocks using this integrated lesson! Begin by reading, “*Everybody Needs A Rock*” by Byrd Baylor.

Have students find rocks of various shapes and sizes either during school time or at home, OR bring in a variety of rocks for them to classify. Give them time to sort a group of rocks by various characteristics – weight, size, and color. Walk around and visually see that students comprehend sorting by the various categories in small groups.

Have students draw a picture and journal describing how they chose to sort their rocks. Allow students to share their illustrations and classification methods in class or in their small group.

Ask probing questions such as:

- 1) Is there only 1 correct way to classify Earth’s materials?
- 2) What are some of the categories you heard today that your friends used to classify rocks, which are one of materials found on Earth?
- 3) How did the groups change when the categories changed?
- 4) Why is it helpful to use a variety of characteristics, such as weight, size and color?

Assess student’s ability to classify according to weight, size or color by using the “Sorting Rocks” worksheets. You will find them attached on the [Curriculum Partner Website](#).

We had the most wonderful afternoon of rock collecting. On the drive to the bay we read the book, *Everybody Needs A Rock* by Byrd Baylor. The story eloquently outlines the “rules” of finding just the right rock. With her advice lingering in our minds we combed the water’s edge for some special finds. It was a wonderful feeling to slow down enough to appreciate the intricacies of each little pebble.

When we returned home with all of our treasures we watched a couple of helpful videos to answer some of the questions that came up during our search (see links below). The girls also strengthened their skills in [classifying and sorting](#) by looking through our rock collection and brainstorming different categories for organizing the stones. I printed their list of attributes on labels and put them on blank index cards. Then we used the index cards to play a variety of sorting games. The level of focus and the length of the girls’ attention span during this experience was amazing!

Materials & Resources

- [Rock Cycle Video – National Geographic](#)
- [Types of Rocks Video – Teacher Tube](#)
- [Rocks Tell Stories – Smithsonian](#)
- [Igneous Metamorphic Sedimentary Rock Gallery](#)
- [Pretty Pebbles by Photographer Alicia Bock](#)

We sorted our rocks by...



Weight



Size



& Color