



Using Rocks

by Jacob Fink

Overview

This book explores different types of rock, including what each type looks like and how each is used.

Literacy Focus *Word Count: 167 words*

High Frequency Words
can, make, many, out, use

Content Words
rocks, earth, marble, ground, slate, granite, grains, sandstone, grainy

Decoding Skills

- **Short Vowel Sounds:** *o* (*rock, blocks*)
- **Word Endings:** *-y, -s* (*flaky, grainy, rocks, colors, blocks, grains*)

Print Conventions

- Using parts of a book

**Comprehension/
Thinking Skills**

- Developing technical vocabulary
- Using photographs and text features (captions)

Text Features

- Contents
- Chapter heads

- Captions

- Index

**Writing/Speaking
and Listening**

- Finding content words in a word search puzzle
- Comparing rocks in a group discussion

Observe/Assess

See Using Graphic Organizers in the Assessment Handbook.

Science Focus

**Content and
Thinking Skills**

- Understanding that rocks come from the Earth
- Understanding that there are many types of rock
- Describing how different types of rocks look and feel
- Learning that people use rocks in building and in other ways

Background Information

Examining the differences in texture and color of four types of rock is a simple introduction to Earth science study. Children will learn that rock is a part of the Earth's composition and that it can be classified into different types. They will learn that marble, slate, granite, and sandstone have qualities that make them valuable materials for building and for decorative purposes.

**Correlation to
National Standards**

Earth Science

- Properties of Earth Materials

**Science in Personal and
Social Perspectives**

See Standards Chart on page 204.

Literacy Focus

Set the Scene

To tap into children's prior knowledge, ask them what they know about the raw materials used to make buildings and statues. If you have small objects made from stone, invite children to handle them and guess what they are made of. Ask:

What things are made from rock?

Where do rocks come from?

What do rocks feel like?

Read and Discuss

Cover, Title Page, and Contents Page
Show children the book. Point out the title of the book and the name of the author.

Read through the Contents list. Demonstrate how the Contents page works. Use this page as a way of introducing the four types of rock featured in the text. Discuss the rock names and the phonetic structure of the words.

Page 3

Read the text together. Discuss ways rocks can be used.

Pages 4–5

Allow children time to study the photographs. Have children guess what materials the labeled items are made of and then read the text together.

Pages 6–11

Read the text, providing the appropriate levels of support to achieve understanding.

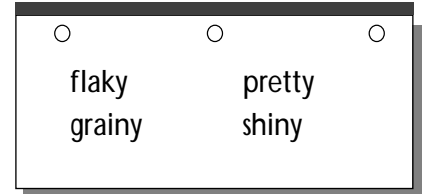
Page 12

Demonstrate how an index is helpful. Explain why the words are ordered alphabetically and why the page reference is given.

Respond

- Allow time for children to reread the book. Taking it home to share with their families, reading it to a friend, or just browsing through it would be beneficial.

- Point out that describing words often end with *-y*. List the words ending in *-y* in the text. Mention that the *-y* in these words sounds like long *e*. Invite children to think of other words ending in *-y* to add to the list.



- Ask children to name words that rhyme with *rocks*.



Word Search

Activity Master, page 176

Have children search for content words in the word search puzzle on the Activity Master, page 176.



Meeting

Individual Needs

For specific teaching strategies for meeting individual needs, see pages 198–203.

Science Focus

Science Concept

Different types of rocks have different characteristics. Rocks are valuable natural resources that are used for building and other purposes.

Activities

Rock Hunt

In an area where it is permitted to do so, have a treasure hunt for special rocks. Bring them back into the classroom to examine and display.

All Sorts

Have a selection of rocks available for children to sort. Ask children to group the rocks in ways they see as important. Ask them to explain their decisions, offering reasons for their groupings. Some of the rocks may match the types described in *Using Rocks*.

Museum Visit

Visit a museum or rock garden where there is a collection of rocks that the children can view.

Pet Rocks

Collect rocks that the children can paint and decorate to make their own pet rocks.



Types of Rocks

Activity Master, page 177

Use the Activity Master, page 177, to reinforce the information given in the text. Have children write things that are made from the various rocks.

Name _____

Using Rocks

Find the words in the Word Bank. Words can go across, down, or diagonal.

Word Bank

ROCK

EARTH

MARBLE

SLATE

FLAKY

GRAINS

GRANITE

SANDSTONE

S	W	G	B	J	F	L	A	K	Y
A	M	C	G	R	A	N	I	T	E
N	L	A	T	B	Q	F	V	K	L
D	Y	M	A	R	B	L	E	I	H
S	T	L	K	O	C	S	G	T	P
T	S	R	M	C	T	W	R	A	E
O	L	E	A	K	E	A	F	D	K
N	A	U	B	A	E	I	D	P	Y
E	T	C	J	G	R	A	I	N	S
I	E	B	L	H	K	T	D	S	L

Name _____

U s i n g R o c k s

Write two uses for each kind of rock.

Marble

Slate

Granite

Sandstone
