






READING

-  **Genre** is the category, or type of text. **Nonfiction** texts give information about a topic.
-  We **ask and answer questions** before reading, during reading, and after reading.
-  **Key details** support the main idea of a text. They give important information about the main idea.



WRITING

Today we read about minerals. All rocks have minerals that can be sorted by their **characteristics** such as shape, color, size, and texture. Think about an animal, but don't say which animal it is! Describe its characteristics and see if your friends or family can guess what animal you described!

Here is a website if you want to learn more about minerals or check out some photographs of minerals: <https://kidskiddle.co/Mineral>. You can describe the characteristics of those, too!

WORD BANK

characteristics
shape
color
texture



SCIENCE CONNECTION

GROW YOUR OWN CRYSTALS

- Bend the pipe cleaner into the shape you want. Tie a string to it. Attach the other end of the string to a pencil.
- Combine 1 cup of boiling water per 3 tablespoons of Borax. Stir until dissolved completely. You can add food coloring if you'd like.
- Drop the pipe cleaner into the Borax solution. Making sure that it is not touching the sides or bottom of the jar. Lay the pencil across the top of the jar.
- Let sit for at least 6 hours, or overnight. You will have sparkly crystals all over the pipe cleaner!
- Carefully remove the pipe cleaner from the Borax solution and place it on a paper towel to drain, then on wax paper to dry further.

Supplies

pipe cleaner
string
pencil
jar
water
borax






READING TIP OF THE WEEK

Writing and reading are connected. Have your child help you write the grocery list, thank you notes, or a couple of each sentences to tell about their day. As they write, focus more on appropriate letter and sound correspondence rather than correct spelling.



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WRITING

We learned about three types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Choose one of these rocks. Tell how it is formed.

CHALLENGE: Can you tell how all three are formed?

WORD BANK

time
heat
pressure



SCIENCE CONNECTION

ROCK OBSERVATIONS

Scientists often make observations of the things they find. This means they use their senses to describe their characteristics. For this experiment, you will need 5-6 different rocks and some paper to record your observations.






- First, draw your rock. What colors do you notice?
- **TEXTURE:** Write words to tell what your rock feels like. For example, it may be pointy, smooth, bump, or rough.
- **HARDNESS:** Rocks have different levels of hardness. Can it be scratched with your fingernail? How about a toothpick? A penny? Record your observations.
- **ABSORPTION:** Some rocks can soak up water! Put a couple of drops on the rock. Describe what you notice.
- **ACID TEST:** Some rocks, like limestone, are acidic. Drop a couple drops of vinegar on it. Do bubbles form? If they do, it is acidic!

Supplies

rocks
toothpick
penny
vinegar
water
paper
pencil
crayons



READING

-  **Genre** is the category, or type of text. **Realistic Fiction** is a made-up story that could really happen.
-  We **ask and answer questions** before reading, during reading, and after reading.
-  **Characters** are the people or animals in a story. **Setting** is where and when the story takes place.
-  The **narrator** is the person who is telling the story.
-  When you **retell** a story, you tell the important parts of the story in order.



WRITING

Today, we read about Max and Kate going on a hike and discovering something new. Write your own story to tell something new that Max and Kate may do together! Here are some words to help you write your story:

One day, *Then,* *Later on,*
Once upon a time... *Suddenly,* *At last,*

WORD BANK

discover
fossil
hike
extinct
preserve



SCIENCE CONNECTION

SWEET EXCAVATION

When scientists remove fossils from the earth, they must take the earth apart piece by piece. This means the site gets destroyed and cannot be excavated again. This cookie excavation will help kids understand the care that must be taken while excavating in order not to damage the fragile artifacts—chocolate chips!

- Each child needs a chocolate chip cookie, a piece of paper, and two toothpicks.
- Keeping the cookie on the paper, begin to excavate cookies with the toothpicks by carefully chipping away at the dirt (cookie). Slowly reveal any hidden artifacts.
- Put each “artifact” (chocolate chips) found in its own pile. Keep the “dirt” (cookie crumbs) in its own pile.
- Eat the destroyed cookie!

Supplies
chocolate chip
cookies
toothpick
paper