

OUTDOORS ✿ GRADES 2-5 ✿ FALL, SPRING ✿ ACTIVITY



Everyone Needs a Rock

DESCRIPTION

Students use all of their senses to explore and identify rocks.

OBJECTIVE

To develop sensory awareness skills.

MATERIALS

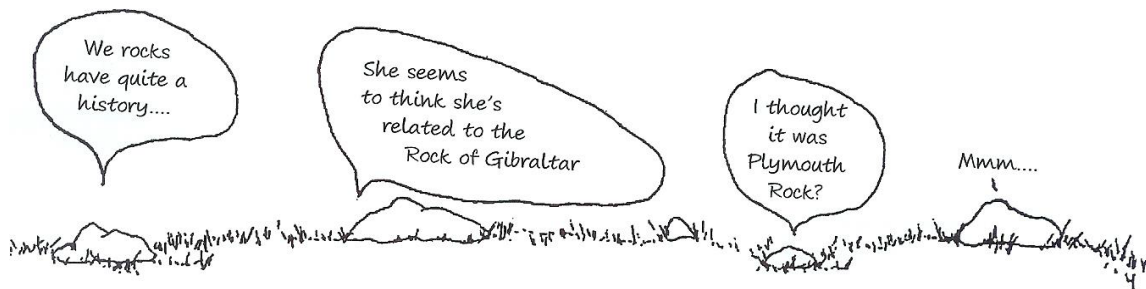
- ✿ 1 rock per student
- ✿ 1 blindfold per student

CLASS DISCUSSION

If you lost your favorite possession, what would you do to try to find it? Would you use any of your senses? If you were looking in a big box and couldn't see to the bottom, what senses would you use to find out if your object was in there? Do you think you could identify a rock by using your senses? (*Take a tally of the class guesses.*)

ACTION

1. In the garden or a nearby natural area, have students find a rock that is about the size of a golf ball. Ask students to bring their rocks and sit cross-legged in circles of six to eight students.
2. Ask each student to make a sensory exploration of his or her rock. For example:
 - Look for the number of colors in your rock.
 - Feel for sharp points, smooth places. Is your rock cold against your cheek? Is it a heavy or light rock?
 - Smell three parts of your rock. Any surprises?
 - Without tasting your rock, imagine what it would be like to eat it.
 - Tap your rock with your fingernail. What sound does it make?



3. Have students imagine getting smaller and smaller until they are so tiny that they can explore their rock as if it were a small planet. Where would they plant a garden? Is there a bit of dirt on the rock? Where would they locate a lookout tower? Where would they find a cave for hiding? Where would they locate a valley to collect rainwater? Where would they build a house?
4. Collect the rocks. Blindfold the students or have them close their eyes. Redistribute the rocks at random. Ask students to feel the rock. When you say "Pass" have students pass the rock to their right if it is not theirs. Then have them feel the rocks again and pass them. Repeat until everyone has his or her own rock. Then have students remove the blindfolds and discuss what they could tell about the rocks without looking.
5. End by having the students hide their rocks somewhere nearby so that they can find them again at a later time.

WRAP UP

List adjectives used in describing the rocks. How many colors were in your rock? How much do you think your rock weighed?

DIGGING DEEPER

Have students categorize rocks by characteristics such as size, texture, shape, and color.