

Create Your Own Rock

Fun Facts about Rock and Minerals:

- Rocks are made up of minerals.
- If you think of a rock like a cookie (*but please don't eat one!*), then minerals are the ingredients that make up that rock cookie.
- Sometimes you can see the minerals in a rock and sometimes you can't.
- Minerals can be many different colors and shapes. Their variety is what makes rocks so interesting and beautiful.

Let's make our own rocks with some mineral ingredients!



porphyry rock



sandstone rock



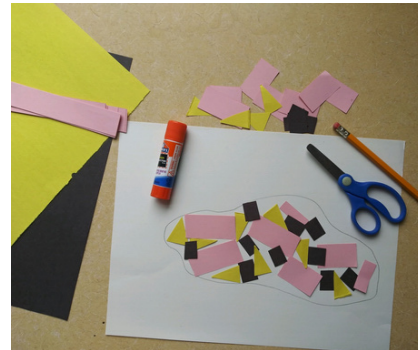
granite rock



gneiss rock

Materials:

- pictures of rocks and minerals
- white piece of paper
- colored construction paper – pink, yellow and black if available
- scissors
- glue sticks



Directions:

1. Look at the pictures of the rocks above.
 - a. What colors do you see?
 - b. What shapes?
 - c. In the rock pictures, do you see more of one particular color or shape?
2. Now look at the pictures below of these common minerals that make up rocks.



quartz mineral –
often clear or grayish



mica mineral –
often black or silver

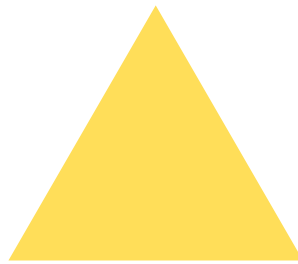


feldspar mineral –
often white or pink

3. Next, cut up the pieces of construction paper to be your mineral ingredients.

if you have pink, yellow and black, you can cut them in these shapes:

- a. pink rectangles = feldspar
- b. yellow triangles = quartz
- c. black squares = mica



4. Draw an outline of a rock on the white paper.

5. Arrange the colorful shapes or “minerals” on your rock outline. When you like the way your “rock” looks, glue the pieces down.

6. Feel free to use different shapes or colors for your minerals. Have fun and be creative!

7. After you finish your rock creation, go outside to look for rocks and minerals. Look for feldspar, quartz or mica in the rocks you find!

Adapted from Ranger Rick’s NatureScope: Geology the Active Earth, Mineral Mosaics activity page 21.
National Wildlife Federation, 1988.