

Rocks and Minerals Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

Rocks and minerals questions worksheet (pages 2-3),
18 rocks and minerals fact cards (pages 4-8),
scissors and scotch tape

Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the rocks and minerals questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 18 rocks and minerals fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find them. You can put them on the back of your classroom door, on chairs, on the computer keyboard, on the sides of student desks, or wherever you like.

Activity

Students receive copies of the question worksheet. They have to search the classroom to find the fact cards to answer the questions.

After they have completed the question sheet, you can go over the answers together with the class.

Management tips

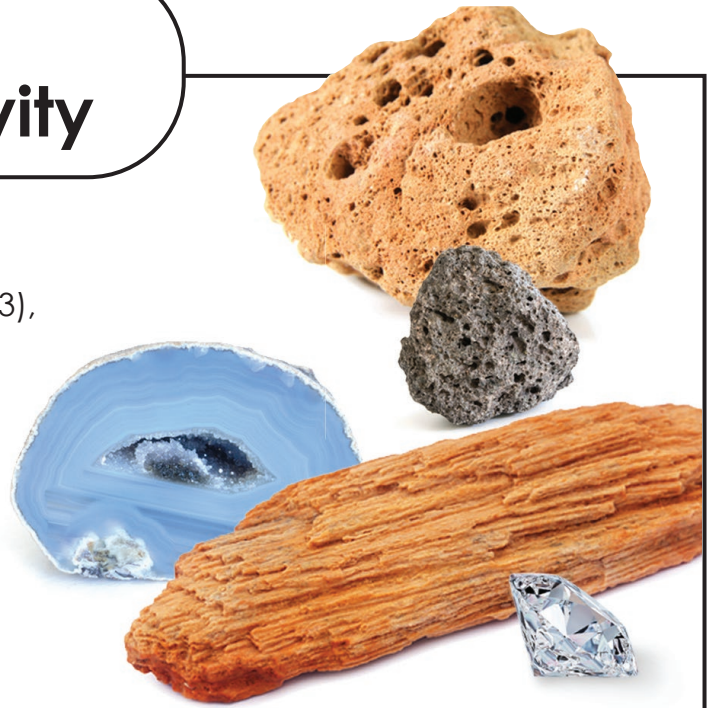
You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other. You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair
- on the side of your computer monitor

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



Rocks and Minerals Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: What is the only type of rock that can float on water?

Fact Card 2: What is the softest mineral?

Fact Card 3: If you break a geode, what is inside?

Fact Card 4: What are three examples of sedimentary rocks?

Fact Card 5: How many types of minerals are there?

Fact Card 6: What is the hardest natural substance on earth?

Fact Card 7: Where and when was the largest gold nugget found? How big was it?

Fact Card 8: What are three examples of igneous rocks?

Fact Card 9: What is a soft, white form of limestone that you use on the sidewalk?

Rocks and Minerals Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What happens when two or more minerals combine together?

Fact Card 11: Mt. Rushmore is carved out of which type of rock?

Fact Card 12: When melted rock is inside of the Earth, what is it called?

Fact Card 13: When melted rock is outside of the Earth, what is it called?

Fact Card 14: What are rocks from space called?

Fact Card 15: Which properties of minerals are tested to determine what kind they are?

Fact Card 16: What is a crystal?

Fact Card 17: What are three examples of metamorphic rocks?

Fact Card 18: What is a scientist who studies rocks called?



Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

1



Pumice is a rock with lots of air pockets. Because of this, pumice is the only type of rock that can float on water!

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

2



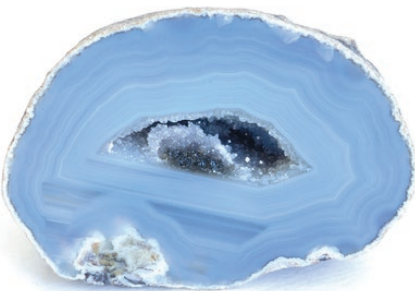
Talc is the softest known mineral. You can scratch it with your fingernail. Some baby powder is made from talc.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

3



Geodes are gray or brown balls of sedimentary or igneous rock on the outside. When you break them open, they contain sparkling crystals inside.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

4



Sedimentary rocks are weathered rocks that have cemented into layers. Examples of sedimentary rock include coal, sandstone, and shale.



Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

5



Scientists have identified more than 3,000 types of minerals.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

6



Diamonds are the hardest natural substance on earth. In fact, the only way to cut one is with another diamond!

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

7



In Australia, the largest gold nugget in the world was found in 1869. It weighed 156 pounds! Gold is one of the most valuable minerals.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

8



Igneous rocks are formed when melted rock cools and hardens. Examples of igneous rocks are quartz, granite, and basalt.



Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

9



Did you know that you use a form of sedimentary rock to draw on the sidewalk? That's right! Chalk is actually a soft, white form of limestone.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

10



When two or more minerals combine together, a rock is formed. Rocks are made from minerals, but minerals are not made out of rocks.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

11



The U.S. National Monument, Mt. Rushmore, displays the faces of four U.S. Presidents out of a huge igneous rock called granite.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

12



Melted rock located inside the earth is called magma. Magma can form igneous rocks.



Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

13



Melted rock outside the earth is called lava. Just like magma, lava can harden to form igneous rock.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

14



Rocks that fall onto the surface of Earth from outer space are called meteorites. Scientists study meteorites to learn about our solar system.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

15



Specific tests help to identify types of minerals. You can test mineral properties including hardness, luster, streak, color, crystal shape, cleavage, and magnetism.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card

16



A mineral with a repeating geometric pattern of particles is called a crystal.



Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card
17



Metamorphic rocks were once igneous or sedimentary rocks, but were changed under heat and pressure. Examples are slate, marble, and schist.

Scavenger Hunt

Rocks and Minerals

Fact Card
18



A geologist is a scientist who studies the earth and its processes, including rocks and minerals.

Rocks and Minerals Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: What is the only type of rock that can float on water?

pumice

Fact Card 2: What is the softest mineral?

talc

Fact Card 3: If you break a geode, what is inside?

crystals

Fact Card 4: What are three examples of sedimentary rocks?

coal, sandstone, shale

Fact Card 5: How many types of minerals are there?

more than 3,000

Fact Card 6: What is the hardest natural substance on earth?

diamond

Fact Card 7: Where and when was the largest gold nugget found? How big was it?

in Australia, in 1869, 156 pounds

Fact Card 8: What are three examples of igneous rocks?

quartz, granite, basalt

Fact Card 9: What is a soft, white form of limestone that you use on the sidewalk?

chalk

Rocks and Minerals Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What happens when two or more minerals combine together?

a rock is formed

Fact Card 11: Mt. Rushmore is carved out of which type of rock?

an igneous rock called granite

Fact Card 12: When melted rock is **inside** of the Earth, what is it called?

magma

Fact Card 13: When melted rock is **outside** of the Earth, what is it called?

lava

Fact Card 14: What are rocks from space called?

meteorites

Fact Card 15: Which properties of minerals are tested to determine what kind they are?

hardness, luster, streak, color, crystal shape, cleavage, magnetism

Fact Card 16: What is a crystal?

a mineral with a repeating geometric pattern of particles

Fact Card 17: What are three examples of metamorphic rocks?

slate, marble, schist

Fact Card 18: What is a scientist who studies rocks called?

geologist
