

Lesson 1 -- Grades K-2 -- Beyond Stone Walls Curricula

Everybody Find a Rock

Grade Level: Kindergarten

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National Content Standard Alignment

Science (NSTA):

- Properties of Earth Materials

Math (NCTM):

- Students should describe the attributes of three dimensional shapes

English Language Arts (NCTE):

- Standards 3 & 12

Student Learning Objective(s)

- Students will recognize the properties of selected rocks

Assessment

- Formal: Science journals will indicate understanding as children write about their rock's qualities.
- Informal: Teacher will gauge student's understanding by observation and questioning individual students throughout the lesson.

Materials/Resources

- *Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor (one for each student or pair of students)
- Variety of polished rocks for viewing and handling by students
- An outside area for students to explore and search for their own rock (preferably a nature trail)

Learning Activities

***Note:** The following activities may be taught as one lesson or split into many sequences, which may be

more effective for holding student's attention spans.

Initiation

Teacher begins lesson by saying, "I'm going to talk to you a little bit about rocks today. Before we look at these rocks (gesturing to various polished rocks nearby) we will be reading this book, *Everybody Needs a Rock*; so please open your books to page four and follow the words as I read aloud."

Lesson Development

- After read aloud is complete, the teacher will focus student's attention on the polished rocks asking students to describe what they see as he/she hold them up for viewing. Students are able to comment on the characteristics of each rock as well as the differences they notice among them. This is meant to be a free conversation allowing students to just talk about rocks and their experiences with rocks.
- Teacher explains after the class is done exploring these rocks, students will take a walk outside to find their own rock, but there are a few rules they must follow (This nature walk may be used as a later lesson). Teacher connects rules to the book *Everybody Needs a Rock* by explaining that "it talks about the rules for us to collect rocks."
 - Rules may include: rock must not be larger than your hand, no running, etc.
- The teacher explains that each rock will be passed around the circle and that each student is to feel/smell/view the rock before passing it to the next person. While rocks are being passed around teacher talks about one in particular, "I have my favorite rock here and it's called a geode. On the outside it looks like a plain rock, but on the inside there are all these different colors and layers. Scientists do a lot of watching, looking and exploring like we are doing today."
- Teacher now shows the class another rock to look at and asks them what it looks like. Students make guesses and teacher reveals that "it is actually a shark tooth, a megadon from prehistoric times that was dropped into the ground and pushed and pushed around until it became a rock.
- Teacher reminds class about following the rock collecting rules and students go outside to walk together along the trail and find their own rock. Meanwhile, teacher is pointing out interesting rocks, different rocks, etc. Once students have found a rock, teacher places a piece of masking tape identifying the student onto

the rock. (All student's rocks are collected if teacher is planning to continue lesson at another time).

Closure

Students are directed to explore other unique rocks at home and bring them in for class discussion and sorting.