



# The Kindergarten Chronicles

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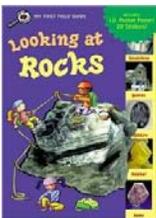
## Nevada Reading Week: Reading Rocks!

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It's time to celebrate reading with Nevada Reading Week! While this year's theme, "Reading Rocks" will conjure up visions of singing superstars in our students' heads, we can take this theme in a different direction, and incorporate science! Our CEFs indicate that "It is expected that students will: record observations

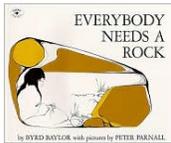


using pictures, words, or numbers (K)1.1; use equipment (magnifying lens, funnel, eye dropper) to gather information (K)1.2; ask questions about the world (K)1.3; share information, observations, and ideas with others (K) 1.5; recognize that science can answer questions for all kinds of people (K)1.6; describe observable material and properties of objects (size, shape, color) (K)2.1; and

compare objects/products made of different materials (K)2.2." All of these standards can be incorporated into our Reading Week exploration of rocks.

To begin this unit, you may want to have your students compile a rock collection in advance. You will probably get more varied rocks if you send a letter home to parents/guardians, and have students collect rocks off-campus.

To build excitement and motivation, Byrd Baylor's book, *Everybody Needs a Rock* will ignite interest in your students to find rocks of their own.



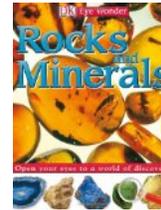
Prior to asking children to create a collection, a great read aloud is



*Let's Go Rock Collecting* by Roma Gans. This will excite your stu-

dents to find different types of rocks.

Once students have their rocks, you will want to ignite their questions. Some more great read aloud titles for this topic include: *Looking at Rocks* by Jennifer Dussling; this book will help guide your students' investigations of the rocks in their collections, helping students identify properties of rocks and some very subtle characteristics to spot. DK's (Eye Wonder) *Rocks and Minerals* explains major differences and characteristics of rocks and minerals and tells about how rocks and minerals are used to make things that we use in our everyday lives.



These books can be a great starting point for studying rocks in your classroom. Now...rock on!

[www.rpd.net](http://www.rpd.net)



Bill Hanlon, Director



## Rock Their World!

Now that your students have a good collection of rocks, it's time to have some fun! Here are some activities to help your students enjoy their rock collection:

**Show & Tell:** Have your students display their rock collections in the classroom. Allow the class to walk around and look at each other's collections. Once all the students have looked at the many different rocks, create a bubble map that describes the ways rocks can possibly be sorted for a future activity. Some ideas for sorting are: size, texture, geo-

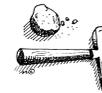
graphic location of rock, color, and shape.

**Sort it Out:** For this activity, each student will need an egg carton that holds a dozen eggs. Send your students off to sort their rocks by one of the qualities on the bubble map. They may write the quality they chose on a piece of paper that you can tape inside the cover of their egg carton. Once this is finished, allow your students to view each other's sorted collections.



**Examine & Explore:**

Now that your students have looked closely at their rocks in order to sort them by a particular quality or property, it's time to let them take a closer look. Give students an eye dropper and a small cup of water. Allow them to put some water on their rocks to see if they change in appearance. Discuss how they change, and if the water helped them see their rocks' qualities better. Next, you may give your students a magnifying lens to look closely at their rocks to see if



they discover qualities that could not be seen by the naked eye. To show your students another way that rocks are different is to have them check the weight of their rocks. You may use a scale or simply have your students compare the weight of two different rocks in their hand.

The key with all these activities is to let your students' natural curiosity guide their exploration. All of their observations can be recorded in a science notebook.

