

What Makes Up Rocks and Soils?

What you need:

- rock samples
- soil samples
- hand lens

What to do:

- **OBSERVE:** Use a hand lens. Look at the rock samples. Notice their color. Feel them.
- **RECORD DATA:** Draw each rock. Write how each one looks and feels.
- Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the soil samples.
- **COMMUNICATE:** Share your data with a classmate. Talk about what you observed.
- Teacher's note: encourage children to use descriptive words when recording how the rock and soil samples look and feel.
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Think and write

- **COMPARE:** How are the rocks alike and different? How are the soils alike and different?
- How are the rocks different from the soils? How are the rocks like the soils?

Guided Inquiry

- **Be an inventor:** Think of a new way that a rock could be used in your home. Try out your idea. Explain how it works.
- Teacher's note: children might suggest that a rock be used as a paperweight or as a doorstep.

Evaluate: Informal assessment: *Are both rocks and soil made of up parts? Explain.*
(Possible answer: Yes; both rocks and soil seem to be made up of smaller pieces.)

GLE 0207.7.2 Describe rocks according to their origin, size, shape, texture, and color.

✓ **0207.7.1** Sort, analyze, and compare a variety of soil types.

✓ **0207.7.2** Observe rocks of different sizes with a hand lens and describe these materials according to their basic features.