TRUCKEE MEADOWS
PARKS FOUNDATION
AWARENESS • APPRECIATION • STEWARDSHIP

The Student Stewards Program presents

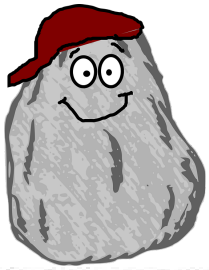
Distance Learning Week 6: Rocks

(K-2nd)

This scientific journal belongs to:_____

Pet Rock

With an adult, take a walk around your yard or local park. Find a rock that you like. It is going to be your pet for the next week! Feel free to give your pet rock a name and to draw a face on your new pet.



Now that you have your pet rock, let's make some observations. Fill in the following questions and draw your rock here →

I found my rock _____.

The color of my rock is _____.

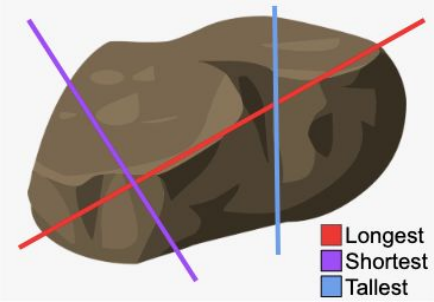
The shape of my rock is _____.

With the help of an adult, use a ruler or measuring tape to measure the size of your pet rock. Make sure to include the unit you measure in, either centimeters (cm) or inches (in).

The longest part of my rock is _____.

The shortest part of my rock is _____.

The tallest part of my rock is _____.



Let's do some experiments to learn more about our rock!

Rocks come in all different shapes, sizes, colors, and textures. The shape, size, color, and texture of rocks are all ways scientists can tell different rocks apart. Scientists can also tell rocks apart based on whether they are shiny or dull, if they sink or float in water, if they are magnetic or not, and if a scratch can be made on the rock by another object.

Shiny or Dull

We will first experiment with your pet rock to see how shiny or dull it is. Shiny rocks—like diamonds, rubies, and crystals—reflect light off their surfaces. This is what makes them look shiny. Dull rocks—like river rocks, construction rocks, and rocks you'll likely find in your yard—don't reflect a lot of light off their surfaces. This is what makes them look dull.

Take a look at your rock. Does it look shiny or dull? Circle the answer that best matches what your pet rock looks like.

My Pet Rock Is:	Shiny	Dull

Sink or Float

Next, we are going to test whether your pet rock sinks or floats in water. First you will need to fill up a bucket or a bowl with water. The bucket or bowl needs to be big enough to hold water and your rock. Fill your bucket or bowl with only enough water to cover your rock.

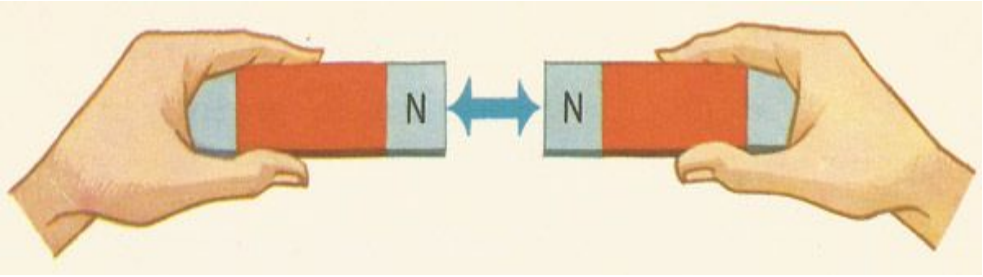
Once you have a bucket or bowl filled with water, gently place your pet rock into the water. Observe your rock for 20 seconds.

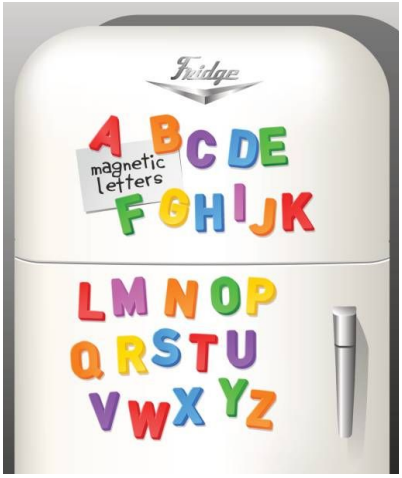
Does your rock float on the top of the water or does it sink to the bottom of the bucket? Circle the answer that best matches what your pet rock does in the water.

My Pet Rock:	Sinks	Floats

Magnetic or Not

For our next experiment, we are going to test whether or not your pet rock is magnetic. Have you ever noticed that when you place a magnet close to your refrigerator, there's a strong force that pulls the magnet towards your fridge?





Or have you ever tried to force two magnets together and there was a strong force pushing the magnets away from each other? These forces that cause magnets to attract or repel one another is called magnetism.

Some rocks act like magnets—they have strong forces that pull them towards or push them away from other magnetic objects. To test whether or not your rock is magnetic you will need a magnet. A magnet off of your refrigerator will work just fine. Hold the magnet up to your rock. Do you feel a force pulling your rock towards the magnet? Do you feel a force pushing your rock away from the magnet?

If you felt a force pulling on or pushing away from your rock that means your rock is magnetic. Circle the answer that best matches your rock.

My Pet Rock Is:	Magnetic	Not Magnetic

Hard or Soft

Our last rock experiment is going to focus on how hard your rock is. We can test the hardness of a rock by trying to scratch it with another object like a paperclip or safety pin. You will need to find an object around your house to scratch your rock with. Make sure you check with an adult if you are using a sharp object.

Now take your object and try to make a scratch on the surface of your pet rock. If a scratch is left on your rock, then that means that the object is harder than your rock. If the object doesn't leave a scratch on your rock, then that means that your rock is harder than the object.

Circle the answer that best matches what your rock looks like.

My Pet Rock Was:	Scratched	Not Scratched

Experiment with other objects around your house to see if they are harder than your rock.

Watch the videos below for more information on rocks!

Being a rock detective with the SciShow Kids:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNs1gqkYerg

Rock basics by Dr. Binocs:

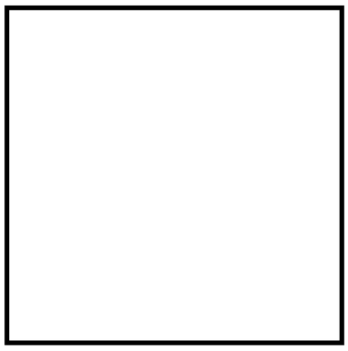
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeuYx-AbZdo

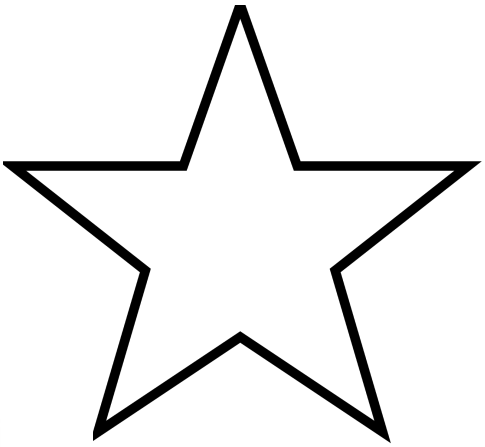
Use the key below to identify what type of rock you have! Ask an adult for help!

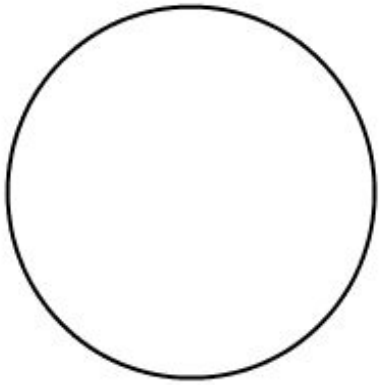
https://eae42cbc-e701-4726-9a11-5e7497ae9f9d.filesusr.com/ugd/dd4d0c_550b69ffd23d4138b46c4fee4d2dc03c.pdf

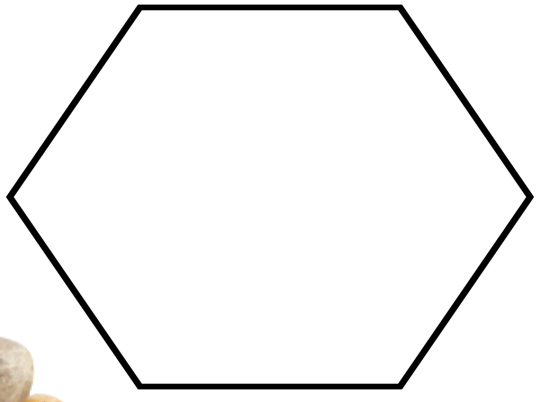
Patterns and Shapes Rock!

Can you make the following shape outlines and patterns using rocks?
How many can you make?









Why Rocks?

Today we have learned about different types of rocks and some ways we tell them apart. Because of their differences, humans use rocks for all sorts of things. We use rocks to build houses, our sidewalks and roads, and we even use rocks to decorate our yards.
Can you think of other ways humans use rocks?

See if you can find ways humans use rocks in the spaces around you. Try looking in different places, such as inside your house, in your yard, or even in a park. For each place, write down how many rocks you find and draw your favorite way that humans use rocks.