

Find the Minerals in the Rocks

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Time: 15 Minutes

Grades: 6-8

Objectives:

- To look more closely at rocks
- To see the connection between minerals and rocks
- To use mineral composition to describe and identify rocks

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Hand lens
- Ruler
- Assorted coarse-grained rocks, e.g., granite, sandstone, gneiss
- Rocks with some visible crystals such as porphyritic volcanic rocks
- Rocks with no visible minerals, e.g., obsidian, shale.

Procedure:

- Look for minerals in the coarse-grained rocks.
- Measure them.
- Draw them, with labels and measurements.
- Repeat with the porphyritic volcanic rocks and with the rocks without visible minerals.

Useful reference:

GeoMan's Mineral and Rock Glossary

<http://jersey.uoregon.edu/~mstrick/MinRockID/MinRockGloss.html>