SECTION 1: WHAT IS A ROCK?

LAB

INTRODUCTION

A rock is made of one or more minerals. Two varieties of the same rock may appear different because of the proportions of the minerals. For example, Granite is a mix of the minerals feldspar, quartz and mica. Minerals are inorganic (neither plant or animal) substances from the Earth. A mineral consists of 1 substance only.

Sort rocks by one property and discuss how they are sorted with Venn diagrams. Students can sort rocks by color, hardness or weight.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

S4.A.2.2 Identify appropriate instruments for a specific task and describe the information the instrument can provide.

S4.C.1.1 Describe observable physical properties of matter.

S4.A.3.3 Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.

S4.D.1.2 Identify the types and uses of Earth’s resources.

PURPOSE

Students will study a variety of rocks with magnifiers and spring scales to compare rocks and to identify the minerals that make them.

MATERIALS

For Each Pair of Students

1 tray
Graphite rock
Talc rock
1 penny
magnifiers

Granite rock
Chalk rock
Pumice rock
1 spring scale

Teacher provides items marked with *