

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.

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 | 1 plastic cup |
| 1 pink granite rock | 1 tray |
| 1 gray granite rock | 1 vial |
| magnifier | 1 spring scale (0-100 g) |
| 2 foam cups | 1 spring scale (0-500g) |

*Teacher provides items marked with **