



Earth Rocks!

Cub Scouts · Elective · Webelos rank

Name

Started

Completed

This adventure turns you into a rock detective. You'll find and crack open rocks, test how hard minerals are, and even grow your own crystal. Rocks are everywhere, so you can start exploring in your own backyard.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/earth-rocks/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

☐ 1 Examine the three kinds of rock: sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic

Tip: Collect a few rocks or use a rock kit. Sort them into the three types and look closely with a magnifying glass.

Example: Sedimentary rocks like sandstone often have layers or bits of sand. Igneous rocks like granite have speckled crystals, and pumice is full of tiny holes. Metamorphic rocks like slate split into flat sheets.

☐ 2 Find a rock, break it open safely, and examine it

Tip: Wrap a rock in an old towel and tap it with a hammer while wearing safety glasses, with an adult helping.

Example: Wrap the rock in an old towel or put it in a cloth bag, put on safety glasses, and have your adult help you tap it with a hammer on a hard surface. Compare the fresh inside to the weathered outside.

- ☐ **3** Make a mineral test kit and test minerals on the Mohs hardness scale; with a rock cycle chart or similar, discuss how hardness decides which materials are used in homes, landscaping, or recreation

Tip: Gather a penny, a nail, and a piece of glass. Scratch your minerals with each and record the results. Look at a rock cycle chart and talk about why hard rocks make good buildings and soft ones make chalk.

Example: Test each mineral in order: does your fingernail scratch it? A penny? A steel nail? Does it scratch glass? Talc is soft enough for a fingernail; quartz scratches glass. Record the results in a chart.

- ☐ **4** Grow a crystal

Tip: Grow crystals from salt, sugar, or borax in a jar with an adult. Check on them every day.

Example: Stir salt into very warm water until no more dissolves, pour it into a jar, and hang a string from a pencil across the top. Keep it where it won't be bumped and check every day.