



A rocky story

Background knowledge

Rocks are often hard materials. They are composed of one or more minerals, many of which can be seen in a rock's crystal shape or color. Gems, such as diamonds and rubies, are mined from rocks. Metals are mined from rocks called ores. Some rocks, such as sandstone, show evidence of living things that lived millions of years ago. These rocks contain fossils. The fossil can be an impression of all or part of a living thing. For example, some rocks have fossils, which show the footprints of dinosaurs that lived over 65 million years ago!

Science activity

Use this decision key to find the names of the rocks in the pictures.

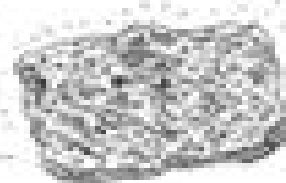
- Clue 1** Are there fossils in the rock? If yes, it is limestone.
If there are no fossils to be seen, go to clue 2.
- Clue 2** If there are crystals in the rock, go to clue 3.
If there are no crystals in the rock, it is sandstone.
- Clue 3** Are the crystals big? If yes, it is calcite.
Are the crystals small? If yes, it is granite.



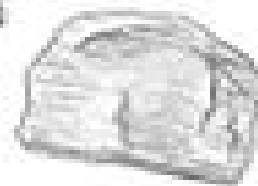
A _____



C _____



B _____



D _____

Science investigation

Collect samples of different rocks and create your own classification system. Place them into groups based on your system.