

Rocks and Minerals in Nova Scotia For Teachers Use

Rocks and Minerals In Nova Scotia

Introduction Objective

Rocks and Minerals in Nova Scotia is aimed at the grade 5-6 level. It is designed to increase the awareness of the importance of minerals in our everyday life as well as introduce students to the profession of a geologist.

This program has been formatted for indoor use only, however, some activities may be used outdoors if an appropriate area can be accessed.

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Introductory Lesson

To begin this lesson we must first make a clear distinction between rocks and minerals.

Question: *What is the difference between rocks and minerals?*

Answer: Minerals are pure substances whereas rocks are made up of many different types of minerals. So basically rocks are minerals.

There are many different types of minerals including salt, gypsum, coal, iron, oil and gas, tin, etc. These minerals are important because we use them every day. Just look around the classroom, you may find examples of these - gyproc on the walls, tables and chairs sometimes have metal parts, the nails used to build the structure of the building, even the glossy coating on magazine pages comes from a mineral. Perhaps the students are bussed to school which is a situation where there are many minerals used from the metal of the bus to the gasoline it uses.

If minerals are used every day, then students may think we have lots of them.

Question: *Why must we be careful with the sources of our minerals?*

Answer: Minerals are a non-renewable resource. This means that once we have used up the supply, it is gone. We can not plant diamonds or gold and expect it to grow like we can with trees. This is why we say "if it can't be grown, it has to be mined". Since minerals are located in the ground then there must be some way of locating these minerals.

Question: *Who locates these minerals?*

Answer: A Geologist

What does a Geologist look like? (ask the students to draw a picture of what they think a Geologist might look like on the [Geologist Worksheet](#). It can include their dress, associated tools, etc.