

The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth

By Joanna Cole

Summary: This attractive book takes Ms. Frizzle's class on a field trip to the center of the earth. It is an exciting and informative science book to motivate children in the study of rocks and basic geology.

Science Concepts: Rocks are found all over the earth; rocks have unique characteristics; rocks are collectible; the earth and/or are made of rocks; rocks are used in a variety of ways.

Related Poetry: "Rocks" by Florence Parry Harris, *Sing a Song of Pigeons* (Scholastic Inc., 1988); "Dollies" by Virginia Worth, *All the Small Firms* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1987); "Flint" by Christina Rossetti, *The Random House of Poetry for Children* (Random House, Inc., 1983)

Related Song: "Old Yiddish" by Linda Martin, *Piggypol Song* (Farrar, 1984)

Connecting Activities:

- Be a rock lover. Make a classroom collection of interesting rocks. Display them on a "Please Touch" table. Use a magnifying glass or magnifying table to study them. Have a collection of resource books on hand to help identify and label the rocks.
- Have each child make a rock collection in an egg carton. Do several investigations using these rocks, such as sorting them in as many ways as possible (hard-soft, big-small, rough-smooth, heavy-light). Use balance scales to order them by weight from lightest to heaviest. Some children may want to use the scale to find the exact weight of each of their rocks.
- Create a class, *Big Book*, called *Why Everybody Needs a Rock*. Each student sponge paints an 8 1/2" x 11" paper with several colors to show texture and then cuts it out into an irregular rock shape. This sponge painted rock is mounted onto large sheet of white paper. The child draws the area where this rock might be found such as the beach, the mountains, or the desert. As a final step the child writes a sentence or story explaining why everybody needs a rock. (For ideas, read *Everybody Needs a Rock* by Rhyd Hughes listed in the bibliography, page 95.) Sponge paint a rock on black paper to use as a cover, bind, and make a class book.

