



Looking at Rocks

Procedure

1. Use the chart below to record your data.

	Color	Texture	Grain
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			

2. **Collaborate** Work with a partner. Choose six rocks from the rock specimen set. Using paper labels and a marker, label each rock *A, B, C, D, E, or F*.

3. **Observe** Closely observe each rock for different colored pieces or layers. Record your observations in the chart. Run your fingers over each rock to feel its texture. Record the texture as *rough* or *smooth* in the chart.

4. **Experiment** Use a hand lens to observe each sample. Rub each rock with your fingers to see if any bits of rock break off. Record each rock's grain size as *no grain, large grain, or small grain*.

5. **Classify** Combine rock collections with another team and group similar rocks. Record the properties you used to classify each group.

Conclusion

1. **Classify** Discuss with your classmates other ways you may classify the rocks.

2. **Infer** Based on what you have observed, how do you think these rocks were formed? For example, which might have been formed by melting? by pressure?

Experiment

Suppose you want to classify your rocks by other properties. Make a plan to test for two properties. Then, with your teacher's permission, carry out your plan. Record your results.

Guided Inquiry