

Greetings, Family!

Our science class will learn about rocks, minerals, and Earth's land in our unit on Earth Science.

You can help make science come alive for your student by connecting what he or she is learning to the land around where you live. With your student, examine rocks found near your home and discuss their differences and similarities. If possible, look with him or her at features of the land around you to try to identify evidence of natural changes that have shaped our planet such as wind, erosion, ice, and flowing water.

For this unit, we will be doing some hands-on activities about rocks, minerals, and weathering, using the materials listed below. Can you donate or loan any of these items? If so, we need to receive your items by _____.

- cardboard egg cartons
- plastic soft drink bottles with caps
- plastic bowls
- waxed paper
- plastic wrap
- clay
- plastic spoons
- metric measuring cups

Thank you very much for your help!



The Georgia Performance Content Standards covered by this unit are:

S3E1a. Explain the difference between a rock and a mineral.

S3E1b. Recognize the physical attributes of rocks and minerals using observation (shape, color, texture), measurement, and simple tests (hardness).

S3E1c. Use observation to compare the similarities and differences in texture, particle size, and color in top soils (such as clay, loam or potting soil, and sand).

S3E1d. Determine how water and wind changes rocks and soil over time using observations and research.

S3E2a. Investigate fossils by observing authentic fossils or models of fossils or view information resources about fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.

S3E2b. Describe how a fossil is formed.