

SCHOLASTIC DISCOVER MORE:

# Rocks and Minerals

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Earth Science, History

**Book Brief:** A fun, informative book with colorful pictures and interesting facts about rocks and minerals.

**Author:**

Dan Green



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, look at the cover:** What do you see? What do you already know about rocks and minerals?

**While reading, follow along:** As you read, listen for new facts that you can

add to your background knowledge about rocks and minerals. Look at the interesting pictures and diagrams that help you better understand the text.

**After reading, ask questions:** This book is best read in sections, not all at once. After each section talk about what new ideas you learned and the use of rocks in everyday life.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### GROWING CRYSTALS

**Materials:** clear plastic cup or small glass jar, string, paperclip, pencil, paper towels, table salt, spoon, scissors, water, food coloring (optional)

Fill plastic cup or jar with water. Add about 1/2 cup of salt and one drop of food coloring. Stir well. Cut piece of string and tie to pencil. Attach paperclip to end of string. Place string with paperclip end into the water/salt mixture so that it does not touch bottom of the cup. Pencil will rest on top of cup to balance. Cover cup with paper towel to keep out dust and dirt. Leave on windowsill or table and watch crystals appear overnight!

### SEDIMENTARY BARS

**Ingredients:** 1/2 c. margarine or butter, 1 1/2 c. graham cracker crumbs, 1 can sweetened condensed milk, 1 c. chocolate chips, 1/3 c. coconut, 1 c. chopped nuts (optional)

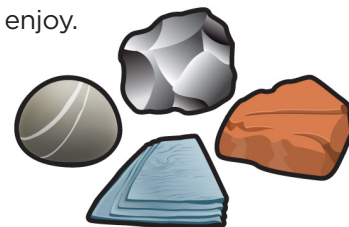
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9" x 13" pan, melt butter. Sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over melted butter. Pour sweetened condensed milk over the crumbs. Top with chocolate chips, coconut, and nuts. Press down firmly to create layers. Bake 25-30 minutes. Cut the cooled treat into bars, look at the layers, and enjoy.

### MY ROCK COLLECTION

**Materials:** bag or box to collect rocks

Spend time outside in your environment with your child.

Collect rocks that you find around your area. Spend time sorting and classifying the rocks according to texture, color, weight, and luster. Compare your findings with details in this book to help determine which type of rock you may have found. Discuss ways rocks can be useful in everyday life and to the earth.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT ROCKS AND MINERALS

*National Geographic Readers: Rocks and Minerals*, Kathleen Zoehfeld (2012), *A Rock is Lively*, Dianna Aston (2012), *The Rock Factory: The Story About the Rock Cycle*, Jacqui Bailey (2006).



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