

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
THIRD GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Help! I Lost my Rock!

**Theme:** Earth/Space Science

**Unit Number:**           **Unit Title:** Rocks, Minerals, Soil and Fossils

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S3E1. Students will investigate the physical attributes of rocks and soils.

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

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Rock

Characteristic

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract (limit 100 characters):** A good introduction to a rock unit. Students will describe basic characteristics of rocks.

**Details:**

In this activity, the students are going to get a “pet rock” of their own. First, have them find a rock that they really like. Instruct them to study their rocks and really recognize every little physical attribute about them. Be sure to point out that every rock is different in it’s own way, no two rocks are the same (Tip: you could incorporate math and graphs here by showing that people are different as well. Take a poll of how many kids in the class have black, blonde, or brown hair etc.).

Next , instruct the students to make “WANTED” poster for their rock. Tell them to pretend that they lost their rock and they are placing an ad to find it. The poster should show detailed characteristics about the rock through a picture and a description as well. Remind them that it should be detailed enough so that someone else could recognize their rock.

Then, have the students place all their rocks in a big pile in the middle of the area and switch posters with a neighbor. Everyone should then go and try to find the lost rocks

**of their neighbor using their neighbors' posters!**

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

- Paper - 1 per student
- A variety of rocks - 1 per student
- Drawing materials
- An open area

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**Tip: It would be a good idea to bring in a variety of rocks. However, you may also be able to find a variety of rocks (not just gravel!) around the school property.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1) Originally submitted by Sejal Patel, edited by Jessica Valle (2010)
- 2)
- 3)