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# THE SCIENCE OF ROCKS

Grade Level  
K-3

Go outside and find a rock. Look at it closely with a magnifying glass if you have one! Do you know what it is made of?

How would you describe your rock?

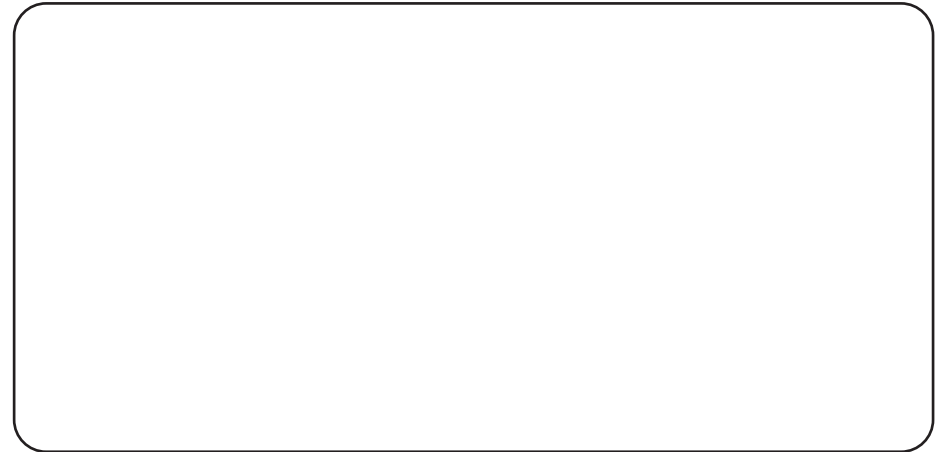
Shape: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Texture: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this space to draw a picture of your rock.



How do you think scientists figure out what a rock is made of?

The type of science that studies rocks is called

**Petrology**  
 (rock) (science)

If we know what rocks are made of, we can learn about where they came from. We can also learn about the processes that made them.

Rocks are made of types of minerals. Minerals show different colors when they are under a special type of light.

Scientists take very thin slices of rocks and look at them under a microscope with special light. The slices are the same diameter as a piece of your hair!



The photos the scientists take are called

**Photomicrographs**  
 (light) (small) (something recorded)

The scientists use the different colors to determine which minerals a rock is made of.



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Color in the rock slice using the key to discover what a scientist sees in a photomicrograph!

