

Rock Rummy

Objective

Students will review properties and common uses of minerals and rocks.

From sparkling gems to ordinary gravel, rocks and minerals are everywhere. While students enjoy investigating different minerals, they may also be surprised to discover the many ways people use these materials. In this game, students will learn and review the classification, properties, and common uses of nearly 20 minerals and rocks.

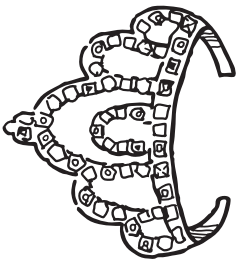
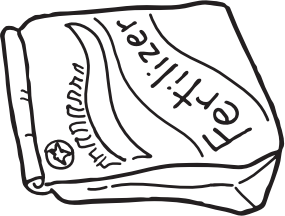
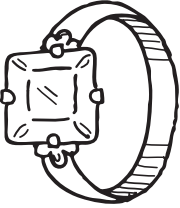
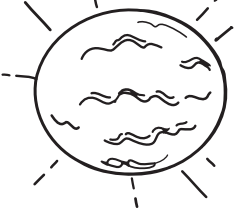
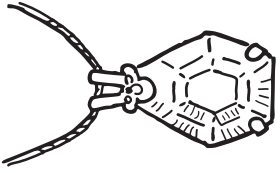
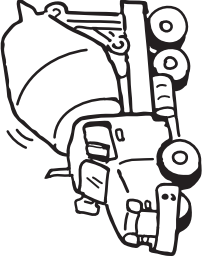
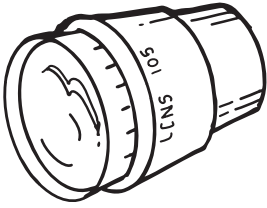

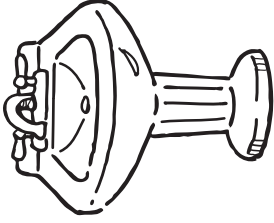

1. Prepare for the game by making three sets of matching game cards. Reproduce the **Rock Rummy Game Cards reproducibles (pages 57–58)** on cardstock for a total of 60 cards. Cut out the cards, and laminate them for durability if you wish.
2. Introduce the game by taking students on a short walk around the school grounds and having each student collect one rock. Back in the classroom, divide the class into small groups. Give each group a magnifying glass and each student an index card. Invite students to examine their rocks with a magnifying glass and write their observations on their index cards. They may describe properties such as size, shape, weight, color, and texture.
3. Demonstrate how to test a rock for hardness by trying to scratch it first with a fingernail, then with a penny, and finally with another student's rock. Have students record observations on their index cards. Provide time for students to investigate each other's rocks.
4. Discuss what students learned while observing the rocks. Point out the fact that various rocks have different degrees of hardness and this hardness can be measured. Introduce or review the Mohs Scale of Hardness (page 56).
5. Discuss terms such as *mineral* and *rock*. Talk about the three types of rock (e.g., *igneous*, *sedimentary*, *metamorphic*) and how each is formed. If possible, let students examine common products made from minerals and rocks (e.g., baby talc from mineral talc, floor tile from sedimentary rock sandstone, pedicare stick from igneous rock pumice).
6. Tell students they will play a rummy card game to review the classification, properties, and common uses of minerals and rocks. A group of two to four students may play at a time. Demonstrate how to play the game before students play independently.

Materials

- Rock Rummy Game Cards reproducibles
- cardstock
- scissors
- magnifying glasses
- penny
- index cards

Rock Rummy Game Cards



10	Hardness Scale	Diamond		Common Use: Jewelry	Mineral	5	Hardness Scale	Apatite		Common Use: Fertilizer	Mineral
9	Hardness Scale	Corundum		Common Use: Jewelry	Mineral	4	Hardness Scale	Flourite		Common Use: Mineral Collections	Mineral
8	Hardness Scale	Topaz		Common Use: Jewelry	Mineral	3	Hardness Scale	Calcite		Common Use: Cement	Mineral
7	Hardness Scale	Quartz		Common Use: Optical Lenses	Mineral	2	Hardness Scale	Gypsum		Common Use: Plaster	Mineral
6	Hardness Scale	Orthoclase		Common Use: Porcelain Sinks	Mineral	1	Hardness Scale	Talc		Common Use: Baby Powder	Mineral