

## Describe and Compare Rocks

| Mineral<br>composition | Rocks have a special mixture of one or more minerals.   |
|------------------------|---|
| Size                   | Rocks can be huge boulders or small pebbles.<br>They can be as big as a mountain or as tiny as<br>a speck of dust.  |
| Shape                  | Rocks can be flat, round, square, or almost any other shape.  |
| Color                  | Rocks come in every color you can imagine. Many rocks have more than one color, depending on the colors of their minerals.  |
| Texture                | Some rocks feel very rough, while others are smooth. They can have tiny grains; large, smooth chunks; or long, pointed crystals. Some rocks are full of airholes. |
| Hardness               | The Mohs Scale of Hardness compares how hard each mineral is within a rock. Talc is rated a 1 (very soft), and diamonds are rated a 10 (very hard).               |
| Patterns               | Rocks may have streaks, waves, or straight lines. They may have dots everywhere or be built layer upon layer. Some rocks do not have a clear pattern.             |
| Location               | An important way to describe a rock is by where in nature it is found. A beach may have different rocks than a forest, desert, or volcano.                        |

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