

# Rock Stars

## Key Stage 2

### Length of Session:

**90 minutes:** 45 min object handling session followed by 45 min self-guided trail in the Museum.

### Maximum group size:

**32 children** plus 4 members of staff.

## Session outline

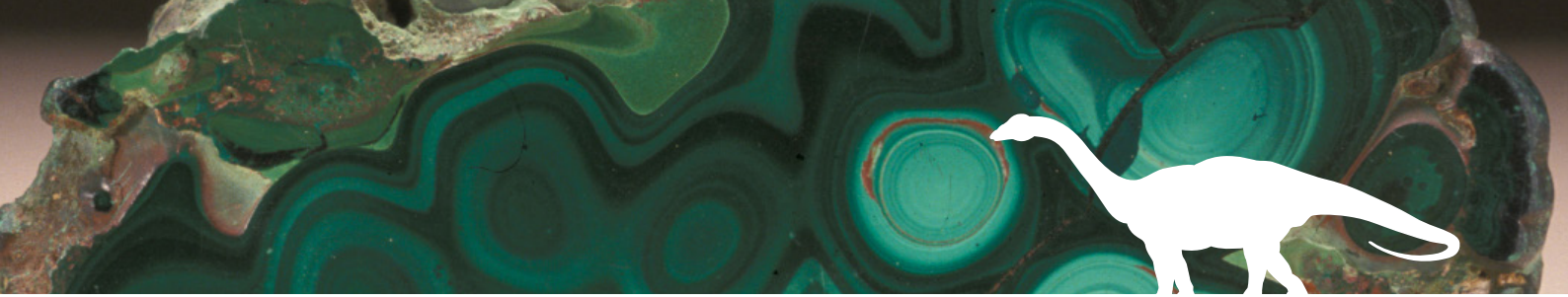
- Investigate the difference between 'rocks' and 'minerals' and discover how essential they are in our everyday lives.
- Take a tactile journey through the rock cycle to explore the three types of rock that make up our planet.
- Children become Geologists, using their close observation skills and new knowledge to sort and identify rocks.
- Chocolate is used to embed learning in this session, so please check for any dietary allergies!



Museum of  
**Natural  
History**  
University of Oxford

### National Curriculum Areas:

**Science:** Working Scientifically; Rocks; States of matter; Properties and Changes of matter.



## Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Discuss what the children think is underground. Is it rock all the way down? How thick is the soil? What else might be down there to dig up?
- Survey your local environment to see how many different types of rock you can find and what they are used for. Get the children to look closely to see if it is only the colour that makes them different. What about the texture and structure?

## Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Test the permeability and hardness of different rocks and look at erosion and how it effects planning for building. Why not borrow the nursery's water tank and fill it with areas of clay, sand, granite and chalk or make your own geological map? Get the children to plan a town on it and explain why they have put certain areas on the different rock types.
- Look at some of the industrial uses of rocks and minerals and make a list of everyday objects containing them, that we couldn't do without.
- Take Rocky the rock on a tour of the Rock Cycle and test your knowledge afterwards by playing some geological games on our website at...<http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/rocks/index.htm>
- ...or explore some of the myriad types and uses of minerals on the Learning Zone at... <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/minerals/index.htm>

## Learning Outcomes

- Awareness that rocks and minerals are essential for human existence.
- Knowledge that all rocks are categorised into three types.
- Understanding that the conditions under which the type of rock is produced define its categorisation.
- Understanding that rocks change continually over time from one type to another.
- Knowledge of which rocks contain fossils and how they are formed.
- Practice of close observation, analytical and scientific enquiry skills and appropriate scientific language.



Museum of  
**Natural  
History**  
University of Oxford

For further details and to book your visit, contact:  
**[education@oum.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education@oum.ox.ac.uk)**