

Rocks and Minerals

Description:

Oh no! There was an accident at the Bakerstreet Mine! Four mine carts, each filled with a different mineral, crashed into each other, hopelessly muddling their contents. (Luckily, no one was hurt.) However, now the miners are really in between a rock and a hard place. Help Sherlock Gnomes and his friend Dr. Watson, the noted geologist, sort out these mixed up minerals.

Ingredients:

Four paper plates

Four pennies

Gypsum, salt, anthracite coal, and gold ore

Worksheets

[Handouts](#)

Directions:

Label each plate with a number, 1 through 4. Place each rock sample on the plate that corresponds to its number. (Sample One: Gypsum, Sample Two: Salt, Sample Three: Anthracite Coal, Sample Four: Gold Ore). Place a penny on each plate as well. Pass out the handouts and explain the premise to the children. Explain the basic physical properties, and how they're identified. Divide the class into four groups, and hand out one worksheet for each group. Have the children rotate stations, write down their observations, and identify each sample.

National Standards for Science

Grades 5-8 Standard - Minerals are naturally occurring substances formed by geological processes. Rocks are naturally occurring solids made up of minerals. This can be used when speaking about the Earth's structure.