

Rock Unknowns
Grades 9-12, Mineral Education Workshop
Maureen Leshendok mleshendok@yahoo.com

Objective: To learn how to identify basic types of rocks.

Time: At least 15 minutes, but can go much longer.

Materials:

- Rock Specimens
- Rock Identification Tables, e.g., GeoMan's
- Magnifying Glass

Procedure:

Number rock specimens.

Spread specimens out on a table or counter on top of a sign with their number.

Divide class into groups.

Each group works with each specimen to determine its properties and to try to identify it.

The group should write down the properties that led to their identification.

Each group reports the results of their work to the rest of the class.

The class discusses the identifications.

The class should develop a rock identification work sheet, listing the properties to use, and possibly, a rock identification flow chart.

Note to teachers:

Using the rock identification charts should suggest procedures to the students.

GeoMan's Mineral and Rock Glossary:

<http://jersey.uoregon.edu/~mstrick/MinRockID/MinRockGloss.html>

GeoMan's Rock Identification

<http://jersey.uoregon.edu/~mstrick/MinRockID/RockID/RockIDChart.html>