

Rock collecting is a fun hobby that can be started with a visit to your own backyard. It's fun to build collections as you travel, finding different rocks as souvenirs of your visit. Be sure you only pick up rocks where it's safe and legal to do so.

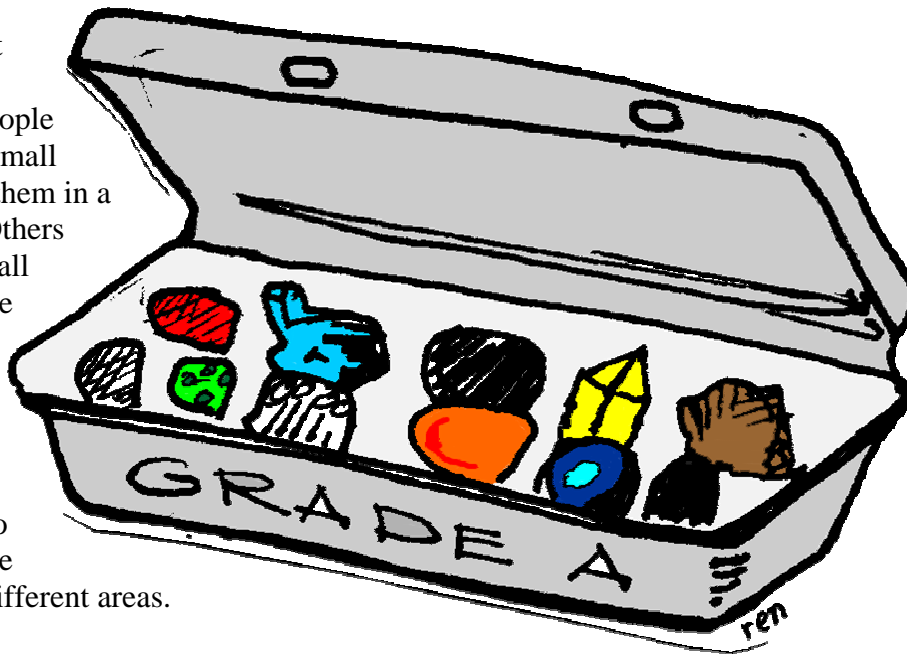
You can also buy prepared samples in rock shops or at rock and gem shows. Don't spend too much on any one rock and be sure it's labeled with what it is and where it was found. Beware that some showy rocks are dyed.

When collecting it's handiest to pick similar sizes. Any size will do, but 2 - 3 inch specimens will easily fit in an egg carton or sewing box and won't fill up your basement too quickly. Some people make a collection of small boulders and display them in a real "rock garden". Others collect samples so small you need a microscope to see them properly.

Even a common mineral like quartz or calcite is interesting to collect if you assemble samples from many different areas.

Use model enamel or a paint pen to number each of your samples and create a corresponding card like the one at right. You don't have to complete all the information. Fill out only what you know, but at *least* where you found it. A collection doesn't have to be identified by mineral to be worthwhile. A very good collection might only be identified by where specimens came from. Mineral identification can be done later when you gain a greater understanding of geology.

Display your collection where friends and neighbors can see it. Share it with your classmates or with your scout group or 4H. Trade extra samples with other collectors.



Information Card

Number	
Name	
Color	
Texture	
Luster	
Group	
Where Found	

Resources

- Chesterman, Charles W. *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.
- Cvancara, Alan M. *A Field Manual for the Amateur Geologist*. NY: John Wiley and Sons, 1995.
- Kittinger, Jo S. *A Look at Minerals from Galena to Gold*. NY: Franklin Watts, 1998.
- Kittinger, Jo S. *A Look at Rocks from Coal to Kimberlite*. NY: Franklin Watts, 1997.
- Pough, Frederick H. *Peterson Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1988.
- Pough, Frederick H. *Peterson First Guide to Rocks and Minerals*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991.
- Roberts, David C. *Peterson Field Guide to Geology: Eastern North America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996.

Collecting Etiquette

Keep these points in mind when collecting on public or private land.

1. Observe all rules posted on public lands and collect only where allowed.
2. Collect on private land only with the owner's permission.
3. Take only what you can reasonably use.
4. If hazardous to livestock, fill all holes created by excavating your sample.
5. Leave all gates as found.
6. Cause no willful damage to property of any kind.
7. Do not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
8. Carry out anything you carry in, do not litter.
9. Leave all areas clean of litter regardless how found.
10. Observe the "Golden Rule" and use "Good Outdoor Manners". At all times conduct yourself in a manner which adds to the public image of rock hounds everywhere.

(Adapted from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics.)

Let's Explore Geology & Mining

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Starting A Rock Collection

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