

Starting a Rock Collection

The best place to start a rock collection is near your home, and the best time to start a rock collection is now.



Helpful Materials and Tools:

- ✓ hammer and chisel (optional)
- ✓ bag to hold the rocks
- ✓ several egg cartons (at least three)
- ✓ marker (for writing on egg carton)
- ✓ notebook

Directions:

1. Look for rocks around home, on the way to school, walking the dog.

Look for rocks that are different in colors and shapes and patterns. Look for rocks with differences you can see and feel.

Add your new rocks to your bag as you go.



2. Some larger rocks might need to be broken into smaller pieces. Have an adult help you with this. Be very careful by placing the larger rock in a strong bag or wrapped in old newspapers and then tapping with a hammer.

3. Sort rocks into 3 groups:

<i>Sedimentary</i>	<i>Igneous</i>	<i>Metamorphic</i>
Sedimentary rocks look layered, and they usually feel gritty or sandy.	Igneous rocks aren't in layers and often look crystalline	Metamorphic rocks are very hard, and the crystals are lined up in bands or layers.

4. Label three egg cartons with the group names: Sedimentary, Igneous and Metamorphic. Then put the rock into compartments of the egg cartons. Add more egg cartons as your collection grows.

5. If you find fossils or rocks that you can't easily identify, put them in a fourth egg carton.



6. In a notebook, list the rocks you find and what carton they are stored in. List where you found each rock and the date you added it to your collection. For each rock, write down anything you notice about the rock. Is it smooth? Is it rough? Is it shiny? Does it sparkle in sunlight? Does it feel heavy or light for its size?

