

Classification for Beginners

Age: 3-6th grade

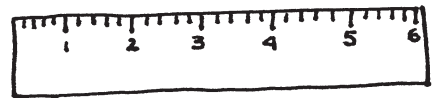
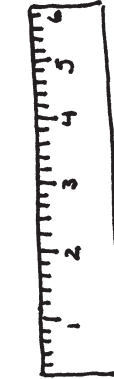
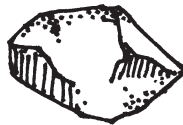
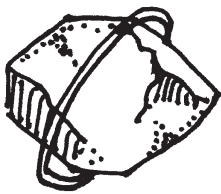
Procedure:

1. Divide the class into small groups of 4-6 students per group.

2. Each group should have 1-2 rulers, 12 inch length of string, paper, pencil, and a bowl of 6-10 rocks.

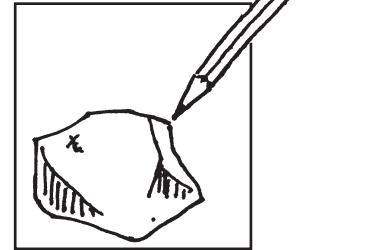
3. Each group should choose one rock from the bowl and observe it carefully. Look at the color, shape, and texture. Note if it has speckles or other marks on it.

4. Have the students record their rock's length and width.



5. Have the students record their rock's circumference by wrapping the string around it and measuring that length with the ruler.

6. They should write down the color and any marking on the rocks they observed and describe any texture they might note in handling the rock.



7. One person should draw a picture of the rock.

8. Then have students return the rock to the bowl and mix it up with the other rocks.

9. Using their data they should try and identify their rock.

10. Then have students return the rock to the bowl and mix it up with the other rocks again. This time they should give their bowl of rocks to another group with their data.

11. The next group of students should then try to identify the rock using the data collected by the first group. Students may empty out the bowl of rocks onto the table to observe each more carefully.

12. Discuss the results with the class. Ask them if, using their list of traits, other students can identify their rock. Discuss how specific traits help classify animals the same way, like: backbone vs. no backbone, cold blooded vs. warm blooded, etc.

