

Soil Types

WHAT YOU NEED



hand lens



3 paper plates



3 craft sticks



3 kinds of soil



3 milk cartons



spoon



red, blue, and green circle stickers



water

Find Out

Do this activity to see how soils can be different.

Process Skills

Observing

Communicating

Measuring

Time

- 30 minutes to get started
- 30 minutes one week later



WHAT TO DO

1. Label one plate "red," one plate "blue," and one plate "green." Put one scoopful of a different soil on each plate.
 2. **Look** carefully at each soil with a hand lens.
 3. Use a craft stick to **look** at different parts of the soil.
 4. **Write** words that tell about each soil.
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5. Label your milk cartons. One is red, one is blue, and one is green.
 6. Fill the red milk carton with the soil labeled "red." Do the same with the blue and the green.
 7. **Measure** five spoonfuls of water into each milk carton. Put your milk cartons in a safe place.
 8. After one week, use your craft stick and **look** carefully at the soil in each milk carton. Write words that tell about each soil.



Soil	To Start	After 1 Week
Red		
Blue		
Green		

Students should write words in the chart to describe each soil.
 Student data will vary.



Conclusions

1. How did the soils change?

Answers will vary. Possible answers include: The description of the soils might

be dry, hard, or sandy. The soils should dry differently; some may stay wet,

others may get hard, others may crumble. All soils should dry out over the week.

2. Why do you think this happened?

Soils dry at different rates and look different when dry because they are

made of different things. Some may have more water, air, or plant parts in

them than others.

New Questions

1. Which soil would be best to grow plants in? Why?

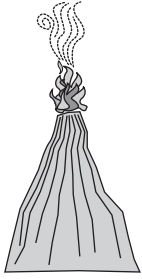
The soil that holds more water would be easier to grow plants in.

2. Write a question you still have about soil.

Accept all reasonable questions.



Name _____



ACTIVITY

Making a Land and Water Collage

Choose a word from the box to name each picture.

lake river mountains plains

_____ mountains



_____ river



_____ lake



_____ plains

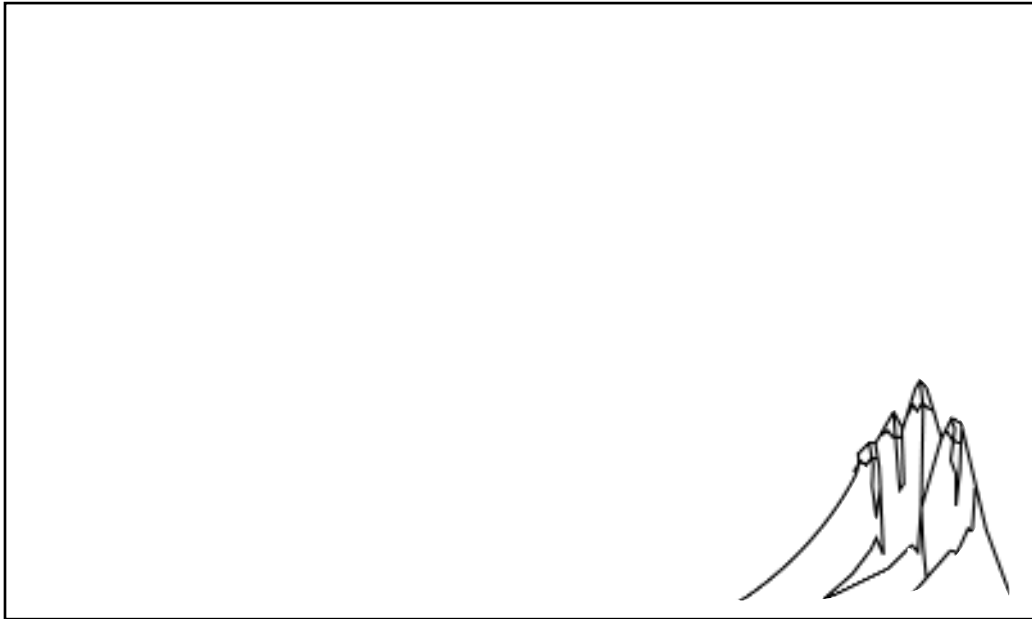


Activity Journal

Lesson 1 • Land and Water

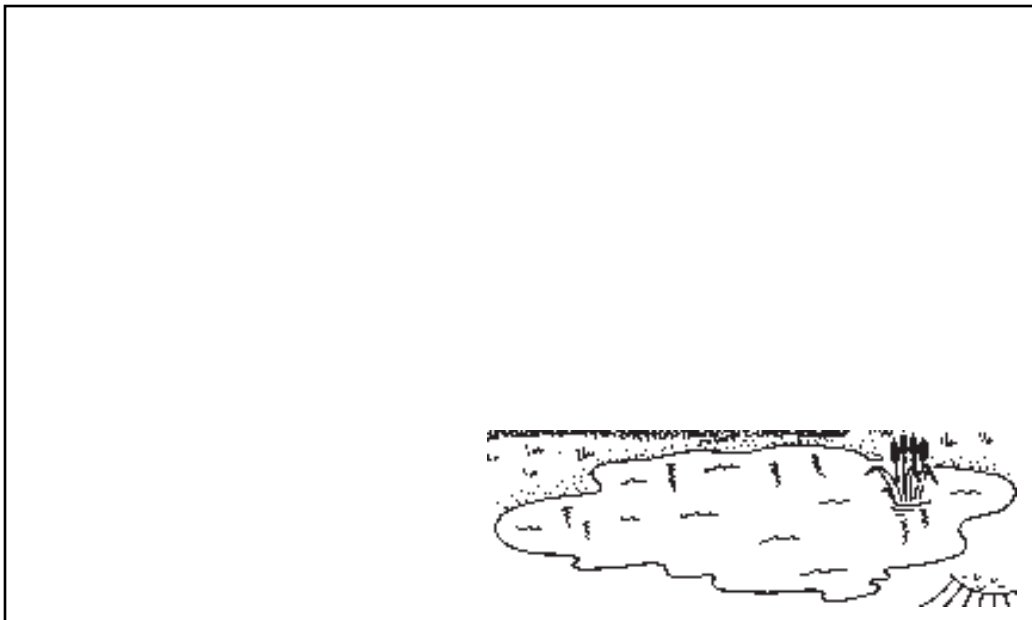
Name _____

Draw one landform that you found.



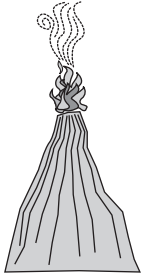
Answers will vary but should represent a landform from their collage.

Draw one body of water that you found.



Answers will vary but should represent a body of water from their collage.

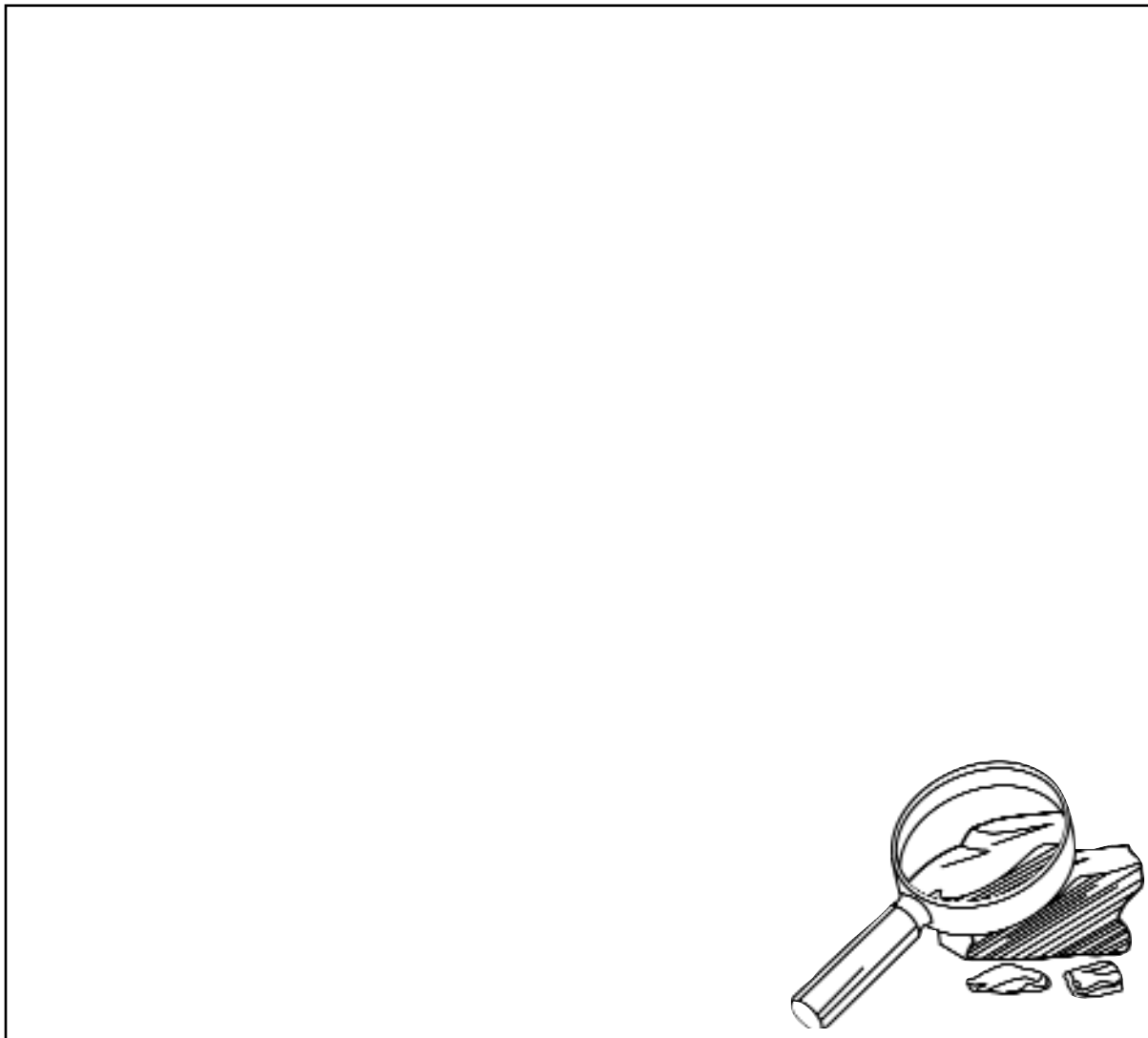
Name _____



ACTIVITY

Grouping Rocks

Look at the rocks carefully, and **draw** what you **see**.



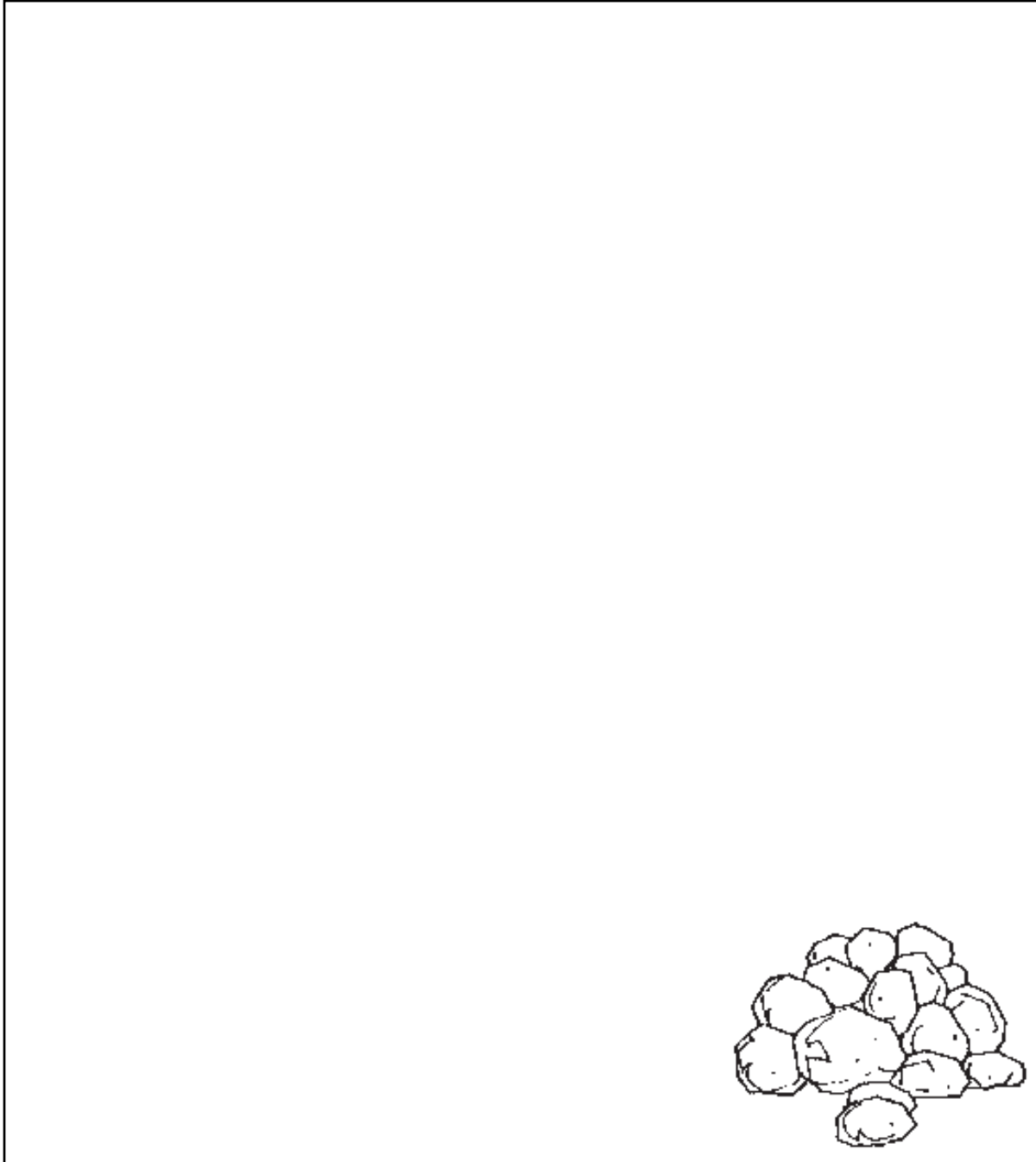
Student drawings will vary but should include distinctive features of each rock.

Activity Journal

Lesson 2 • Rocks and Soil

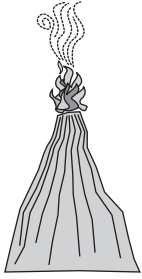
Name _____

How did you **group** the rocks?



Answers will vary. Possible groupings include size, shape, color, and texture.

Name _____



ACTIVITY

Caring for Earth

Guess how much paper your class uses in one week.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their answer. In the bottom right corner of this box, there is a small illustration of a stack of papers, with several sheets overlapping and slightly curved.

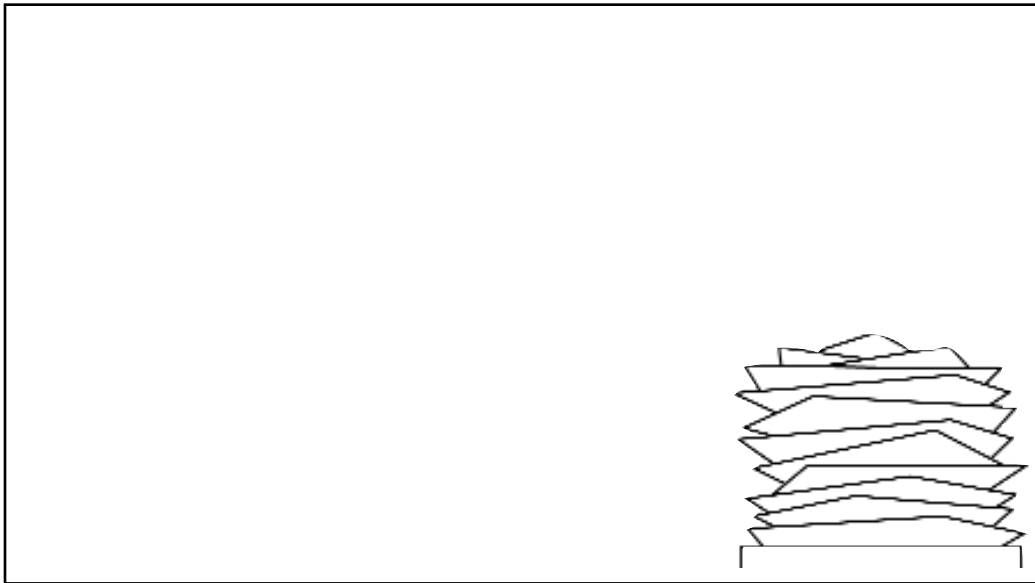
Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable answers.

Activity Journal

Lesson 3 • Earth's Resources

Name _____

Draw how much paper your class used in one week.



Answers will vary but should reflect amount of paper the class used.

What other things could you recycle?



Answers will vary but may include aluminum cans, bottles, newspaper.