1.f.

SCIENCE ACTIVITY:
Exploring Your Local Rock, like a Geologist

TIME NEEDED: 60 mins

AGE: Years 3, 4 and 5

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge: Rock, deep time, geology of the UK

Skills: Observation, scientific research, drawing

MATERIALS:

Rocks from your local area, sketchbooks, pencils, rubbers, coloured pencils.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN

- Go out into the countryside, look around and get a sample of your local rock. It might be easier to get it on the beach, on a hillside, in a disused quarry or a ploughed field. (Stones picked up from parks, driveways or gardens may not be local rock)
- Explore it scientifically. What clues does it give you about what it once was? Is it soft / hard? Light or heavy? Gritty or smooth? Does it erode easily? Does it absorb water or not? Can you see anything in it?
- Make a sketch of the rock. Add any details and notes.
- Using the knowledge you have gathered, find out what type of rock it is. A simple geological map of the UK is **here**. Common rocks on the south coast of England are chalk, sandstone and limestone. The Jurassic Coast has many different rocks, do you know why this is? See a map of the Jurassic Coast **here**.
- Find out how your rock was formed and how old it is. What was it once? An animal? Soil? A plant? Can you imagine what sort of prehistoric world existed where your rock was found? Were there dinosaurs, what plants grew there? What was the climate like? Do a drawing of the scene.
- Online, you can look up imagined scenes of the Cretaceous period, Jurassic period and Triassic period.

FOLLOW UP

1) Find out more about the Jurassic Coast **here**.

2) When you visit new places try to get a rock sample and find out about the geology of that place. More fun activities on rock can be found **here**.

Key Message

Science is a continuous process of discovery. We use evidence to get facts and form theories, then new facts disprove the old.

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