

BACK TO NATURE



CENTER for
AQUATIC
SCIENCES

at Adventure Aquarium

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Lets Rock and Roll

Between a rock and a hard place

Rocks are formed when lava flows out of the earth's core. Depending on how the rock is affected by cooling, heating, pressure, and the mineral composition will determine what the rock looks like.

Weathering of rain and snow will break down the rocks over time, slowly turning rocks into sand. For a more in-depth lesson on rocks [check out this link](#).



Go Outside

Grab a hammer and head out for a rock hunt. Find a few large rocks, let your child crack the rocks to see what's inside!

This is a great time to talk about how water erodes, or breaks down, rock into sand over time.

Can they break the rocks small enough to make sand?



At Home Science Experiment

Painted Rocks

You may have already found a painted rock in a park or around town, in many places around the country kids are decorating rocks and hiding them in parks and public areas. When the painted rocks are found you can either keep them or hide them again for someone else to find.



There are also groups on Facebook dedicated to painted rocks that people find. Find some rocks, grab some paint, and get hiding! [Here are a ton of ideas for painted rocks.](#)

Take a photo of your rock experiments or crafts and share on Facebook and Instagram using these hashtags:

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Grow your own Geodes

Geodes (rocks with crystals formed inside) are not commonly found on the East Coast, but you can make your own at home by [following this experiment](#).

Materials: Clay or an empty clean eggshell, Alum Powder (found with spice at the store), hot water, and glue.



If you are using clay form the clay into a small bowl shape and allow it to dry. Once dry, cover the inside of the clay or eggshell with glue and then coat with Alum powder. In a small container dissolve about a tablespoon of Alum in the hot water. Allow the water to cool, then submerge your clay or eggshell. Leave in the solution overnight. After 24 hours, remove your geode from the water to see the crystals and allow it to dry.

Leave it as you found it



As we encourage everyone to enjoy the outdoors we also hope that you enjoy it while respecting it and leaving it the way you found it. A growing trend has been to build rock pile or cairns in rivers and streams. The people doing it mean no harm and believe they are making art but these are disruptive to wildlife that is living there.

"And it's not just cairns," Brent McDaniel, director of marketing for the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park said. "The same goes for moving rocks and creating dams to make chutes or pools in a stream. Salamanders like the Eastern hellbender, which can grow up to 2 feet in length, live in spaces and crevices under river rocks. These amazing creatures have been on this planet for 65 million years, but are now listed as near threatened in large part due to habitat loss." ([Full article here](#))

