



Let's Talk Rock

1st Grade

Duration

Pre-Visit: 20-30 minutes

Visit: 30 minutes

Location

Gem & Mineral Hall

Supplies

- Paper
- Pencil
- Clipboards (optional)
- Basic mineral set (optional)
- Photos of minerals (optional)

Standards

NGSS

1-LS1

S+E Practices

3, 4, 7, 8

CCSS

L.5.b.c.d, L.6

CA State

Science 1.4a

ELA 1.1.6.7

Vocabulary

Adjective · Geologist · Luster · Metallic/Non-metallic · Vitreous · Greasy · Waxy

Concepts

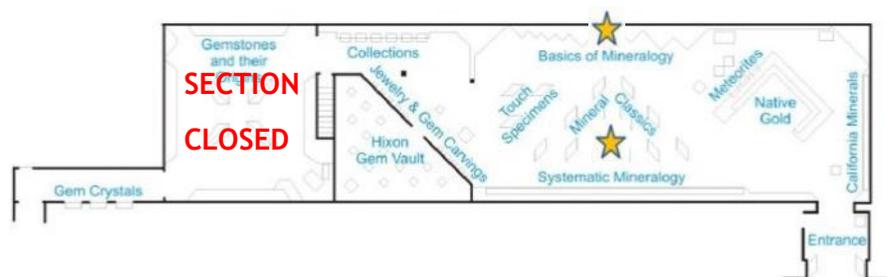
- Scientists use adjectives to record observations.
- Geologists use certain adjectives to describe rocks and minerals.

Objectives

- Students will understand that scientists use adjectives to record observations.
- Students will learn new adjectives to describe rocks and minerals and use them in their own observations.
- Students will construct descriptive sentences using new vocabulary.

Outline

1. In one classroom session before visiting the Museum, review sentence structure and adjectives and introduce concepts and vocabulary.
2. During a trip to the Museum explore and practice observation using new vocabulary, complete the worksheet and reflect and review on the lesson.



Pre-Visit

In your classroom, review the anatomy of a sentence and how to construct a sentence with your students, with an emphasis on adjectives and how to use them. Use objects from the classroom to have students practice using adjectives in sentences.

Next, explain to students that adjectives are very important in science, because they help scientists record good observations. Often, different fields use a particular set of adjectives that are unique to that science, this helps scientists in that field easily communicate when they record observations. Having a special set of adjectives helps scientists that are studying the same thing communicate and work together more easily.

For example Geologists, scientists who study the earth, use certain a special set of adjectives to talk about how different minerals look. One important set of adjectives they use is about the *luster* of rocks and minerals. *Luster* is how light is reflected off a rock or mineral. There are 2 big groups of luster, **Metallic** and **Non-Metallic**.

Metallic - is when a mineral looks shiny like a metal, **Non-Metallic** is the opposite of that. There are many kinds of non-metallic luster, including **Vitreous** - when a mineral looks glassy, **Greasy** - when a mineral looks like it's covered in a thin layer of oil and **Waxy** - when a mineral looks like it is waxy on the surface, like a candle. You may choose to show students photos of these examples and/or practice with specimens in the classroom.

Explain to the students that they will be practicing using this new vocabulary during a field trip to the Natural History Museum!

Visit

At the Museum, have students explore the Gem and Mineral Hall and look around at all the different display cases. Encourage students to practice using new vocabulary and check out the examples they saw in the picture in the *Basics of Mineralogy* section.

Next, guide the students to the Mineral Classics section of the hall and have students choose one mineral to write about. Using the worksheet below, have students identify and record adjectives to describe their favorite mineral, and use them to write a 3-4 sentences about the specimen. At least one of the adjectives should be a new vocabulary term.

Either on the bus or back at the classroom, reflect on the activity with your students. Why might scientists like geologists use special adjectives? Were the adjectives helpful in describing your specimen?

Variations & Extensions

- Have students draw or photograph the mineral and attach it to the worksheet.
- Use student work as a jumping off point for a short report about their mineral and have them present it to the class.



Pick a specimen and use it to complete the worksheet below

Vocabulary

- **Geologist** - A scientist who studies the earth
- **Luster** - The way light bounces off a mineral
- **Metallic** - A luster that looks shiny like a metal
- **Non-Metallic** - A luster that is not metallic
- **Vitreous** - A luster that looks glassy
- **Greasy**- A luster that looks like a thin layer of oil
- **Waxy**- when a mineral looks like it is waxy like a candle

Record four adjectives that describe your specimen

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Write four sentences that use each adjective above

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

