

# Rocks + Soil

## Unit Standards:

S3EI. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the physical attributes of rocks and soils.

## Big Idea

Rocks and soil have characteristics that are used to classify and describe them. Water and wind change rocks and soil over time.

## Essential Questions

What are characteristics of rocks?

How can we classify rocks?

What is soil?

How does Earth's surface change slowly?

How does erosion change the land?

## Key Vocabulary Words

mineral

sand

weathering

rock

silt

erosion

soil

clay

glacier

humus

nutrients

## Enduring Understanding

- Minerals and rocks are not the same.
- Rocks are composed of one or more minerals.
- Some minerals exist by themselves, but most exist as part of rocks.
- Rocks and minerals have testable physical properties such as shape, and hardness.
- Rocks have physical characteristics (shape, color, texture) that can be classified by using observation and simple tests.
- There are different types of soils.
- Soils have physical properties such as texture, particle size and color.
- Soil is one of the earth's most valuable resources.
- Soil is composed of weathered rock, air, water, and humus.
- Scientists classify soils by observation and simple tests.