

LOVE ROCKS



Put a creative spin on the traditional Valentine by giving homemade “Love Rocks” instead! Making “Love Rocks” helps children exercise creativity and practice healthy emotional expression while exploring the outdoors and learning about geology!



METHOD

- 1) **Get outside!** Go for a nature walk to hunt for rocks. Whether you live near a beach or in a big urban neighborhood, there are rocks to be found! Look for different shapes and sizes, and keep a special eye out for heart-shaped rocks!
- 2) **Create!** Think about what design you want to paint on each rock. Consider drawing some draft designs on a piece of paper with markers. Did you find any heart-shaped rocks? Use the natural contours of those rocks to draw your heart outline! Are you giving these as Valentines? Consider painting traditional messages inside your heart designs, such as "I love you," "Be Mine," or simply writing your loved one's name.
- 3) **Enjoy!** Let dry, then either give your Love Rocks to your Valentines or use them to decorate for the holiday!

MATERIALS

Rocks
Acrylic Paint
Paint Brushes
Imagination
Love



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING

Turn your art project into a science investigation! As your children hunt for rocks, ask prompting questions - Encourage them to look for a diverse variety of rocks, and to pay attention to where they find their rocks. What does the environment around them look like at each location? Where do you think the rocks came from, and why? Do the rocks collected near a source of water feel different from the rocks collected closer to dry land? Why do you think that is? When you get home, have children lay all their rocks out and examine them. Pull out a magnifying glass if you have one, but if not, simply have children look closely at each rock. What are the visible differences in color? In texture? Are some rocks one solid color while others seem to have many colors? Are they opaque or transparent? Do you see any stripes? Do they sparkle at all? Explain to children that rocks are grains of minerals clumped together with time and pressure! Explore a rock identification resource online together, study the different types of rocks that exist, and have children analyze each rock to identify if they are igneous, sedimentary, mineral, or even rocks from outer space!

Dig deeper and learn which rocks are local to your area and why!

[Check out this fun rock resource from DKfindout!](#)

[Try one of these cool rock identification apps!](#)

[Create your own rock lab with this activity from science-sparks.com!](#)

[Continue your geology adventures with this California Rockhounding Location Guide & Map!](#)



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