

MEMORY STONES

POINT OF INQUIRY

Which types of rocks make the longest lasting monuments?

CONCEPT

Throughout the history of mankind, civilizations have been judged on their knowledge and expert use of mineral resources.

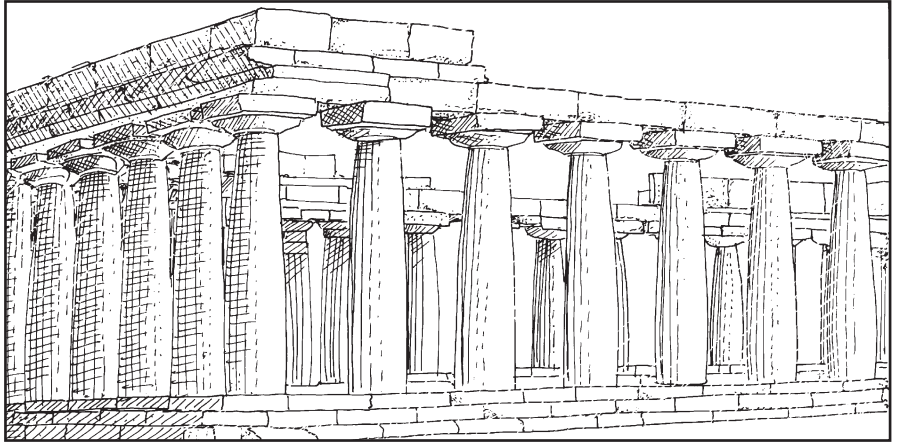
LEARNING OUTCOME
The students will learn that rocks and minerals are significant for many different reasons.

CURRICULUM FOCUS:
Language Arts, Art, Science

SKILLS/PROCESSES:
collect, compare, display, observe, classify, discuss, write

KEY VOCABULARY:
rock, monument

MATERIALS:
rock identification guides, magnifiers, posterboard, scissors, colored pencils



Background

Throughout the United States and the world, science and nature museums have sections devoted just to rocks and minerals so that visitors can become aware of the beautiful, valuable, and interesting geologic items that exist on and in the earth. The museum itself may be made of beautiful rock. Museums hold all kinds of things for us to see for all kinds of reasons.

Museums, antique stores, and rock shops all hold a piece of history when they have rocks on their shelves. Hold a piece of stone, even the simplest, most plain stone in your hand, and you are holding hundreds of years...thousands of years in your palm. Who may have held it before you? Where did it come from? Did it sit outside a famous person's home at one time? Did a person from history walk on it or near it? Was it on some spot where an historical event happened? Rocks can be valuable because of their beauty, their valuable minerals, or they can be valuable just because of the memories we attach to them.

Preparation

Tell the students to collect one rock from a place that is important to them to become their Memory Stone. Give the students about a week to gather their Memory Stones. Tell them to write on a small piece of paper where the rock came from and the date they collected it. Either supply or ask the students to bring a piece of thick poster board or cardboard to make their memory stone.

You may want to call a local rock and mineral club, rock shop, or contact a geology teacher in your area and extend an invitation to come on "Identification Day" to assist students in identifying their rocks.