



Pet Rock Journal

Introduction

In the book *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs*, author Anthony Fredericks introduces students to a collection of creatures that make their home under and around a rock. In this activity, students make observations about a rock in their neighborhood and how effective it is as a habitat for creatures.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Notebook/Scrapbook
- ◆ Camera
- ◆ *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and Other Ughs* by Anthony D. Fredericks

Procedure

1. Invite students to select a rock near the school.
2. Encourage them to take periodic photographs of the rock throughout the year and maintain a diary or journal of the events or changes that take place around the rock.
3. Ask students to answer some of the following questions about their rock:
 - ◆ Who comes to visit the rock (animals)?
 - ◆ What does the rock look like when it rains, snows or is sunny outside?
 - ◆ Does the weather, or any other activity, change the rock?
 - ◆ How does the environment around the rock change?
 - ◆ What can we conclude about the nature of the rock?
4. Periodically, talk with students about any changes in the surrounding environment and how those changes may be similar to or different from some of the events in the story.

Key Concepts

- ◆ Weather changes from day to day and over the seasons.
- ◆ Changes in environments can be natural or influenced by humans.
- ◆ Use knowledge and evidence to formulate explanation.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

Critical thinking questions about *Under One Rock*:

- ◆ Which of the creatures was most amazing?
- ◆ How did the illustrations help you learn about the animals in the book?
- ◆ Which of the animals would you like to learn more about?
- ◆ How are so many different animals able to live together in one place?

Additional Resources

As the weather gets colder these animals find shelter under rocks:

- ◆ Squirrels
- ◆ Mice
- ◆ Insects
- ◆ Snakes
- ◆ Reptiles

These animals hibernate for all or part of the winter under rocks or in rock caves:

- ◆ Bears
- ◆ Skunks
- ◆ Chipmunks
- ◆ Bats

