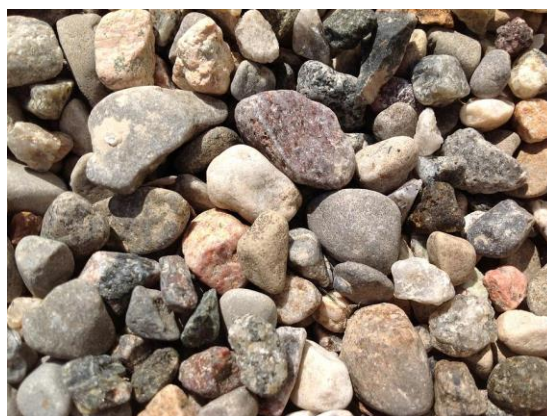


Playground Pebbles – Instructor’s Guide

Developed by Lynn Dafoe

Your local school or community playground may utilize small gravel to ensure safe play on the structures. The gravel is often a mix of different rock types that offers a learning opportunity about geology and rock types.

The playground pebbles activity uses this material (or small beach pebbles) in addition to the [Nova Scotia Pebbles](#) guide available from the Atlantic Geoscience Society. These guides are available for free at some local tourist centres in Nova Scotia, but can also be downloaded in pdf format. Class sets can also be requested for the cost of mailing.



Objective: identify and learn about rock types in locally available material.

Grade levels: 3-9

Materials:

- Digital or printed copies of Nova Scotia pebbles
- Playground pebbles worksheets printed on cardstock
- Double-sided foam tape
- Scissors
- A variety of pebbles

Instructions for students:

1. Have students collect a variety of pebbles from their local playground or beach. The specimens should be about 1” in size so that they can be identified, but still be affixed to the worksheet.
2. Attach each pebble specimen to the worksheet using a piece of double-sided foam tape.
3. Use the pebble guide to determine the rock name and rock type (igneous, sedimentary or metamorphic) for each pebble.
4. Students can provide details about the characteristics that are appropriate to their grade level. An example worksheet is provided using granite. Higher grade levels may try to identify some minerals within more obvious specimens.