

Spike's Object Activity

Theme; Rocks and Minerals

#SpikeDinosAdventures



ROCKS & MINERALS; Purple Amethyst (quartz)

Spike has been learning about rocks and minerals. It is a tricky topic to learn about, so we've tried to keep it simple. He found this large amethyst in the museum and wanted to know more about it.

Amethyst is a semiprecious **mineral** that is often used in jewellery. They look like lots of crystals stuck together. The name amethyst comes from Greek mythology and its purple colour.

Amethysts are also called quartz. But you can also have white and rose quartz too.

They are formed through geological processes and are found in igneous and metamorphic rocks. This means when the rocks that form the earth move or are heated, they change and different minerals are made.

Simply;

A mineral is made from one or two chemicals.

A rock is made up of two or more minerals.

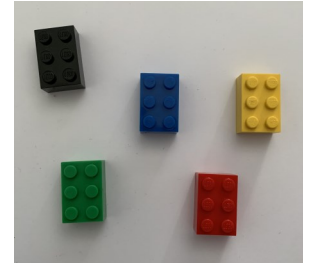


Activity 1; You can make 'rocks' and 'minerals' using Lego. Collect blocks together in several different colours. Make sure you have 3 or 4 pieces of each colour.

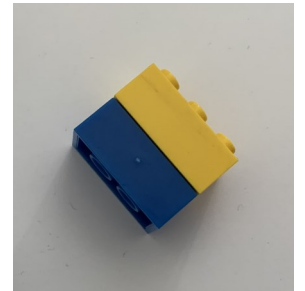


First, take a single piece of Lego. This is a 'mineral'.

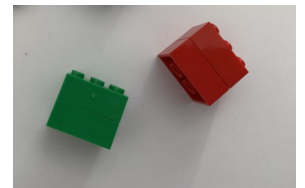
Take another piece of a different colour. This is another 'mineral'.



Stick them together. This is now a 'rock'.



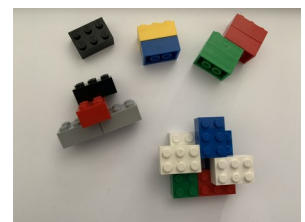
Now stick together two pieces of the same colour. This is a mineral. Take two more pieces of a different colour. These are 'minerals'.



Add them to the two pieces of the same colour. These are now a 'rock'.



Use Lego (or similar) to create your own 'rocks' and 'minerals'. You could do it by threading beads. Or draw your creations.



Happy building!!

Activity 2; Collect together lots of purple things.

Share your pictures tagging @MaidstoneMuseum and #SpikeDinosAdventures on social media

Note; Lego is a registered trademark.

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