

CLASS PLAN

Dig into Earth Science

Uncover the world beneath our feet as young scientists dig into the world of Earth science. Children will use scientific tools to investigate, measure, and describe the properties and uses of Earth materials. Dig deeper to discover what lives in the dirt and other wonders found under the ground.

Location: Discovery Place Science

Program Area: Early Childhood

Duration: 50 minutes

Group Maximum: 25 students

Audience: PreK-K

Major Concepts:

- Earth materials such as rocks, minerals, and soil have distinct characteristics that make them useful in different ways
- Earth materials change over time through processes like the rock cycle

North Carolina Essential Standards:

K.P.2: Understand how objects are described based on their physical properties and how they are used.

North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development:

CD-1: Children use their senses to construct knowledge about the world around them

CD-1k: Explore objects, tools, and materials systematically to learn about their properties (weigh an object, observe something from the top of the object to the bottom)

Class Objectives:

Children will:

- Determine if an object is living or nonliving
- Introduce the rock cycle and the idea that earth features change over time
- Explore earth materials and understand their characteristics and uses

Methods and Activities:

- Participate in an introduction to earth science and what is included in that branch of science
- Rotate through hands-on learning centers where children will explore earth materials, test soils, and investigate rocks and minerals

Key Vocabulary:

Living, nonliving, organism, basic needs, soil, rock cycle, sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic