

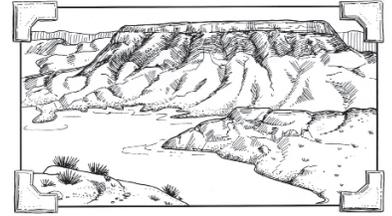
# Lake Mead

## Environmental Education

National Recreation Area  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



### Grade 4 - Pre-Site Activity "Stories in Stone"



#### Objectives

Through observation, recording data and sharing descriptions, students will be able to identify a rock by feeling for it (not seeing it) based on its characteristics.

#### Vocabulary

geology - the science dealing with the structure of the Earth

#### Materials

*My Rock* worksheet (one for each student)  
Rock brought from home or schoolyard  
*Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor  
Paper or cloth bags (one for each small group)

#### Activity Time

One hour

#### Overview of Activity

1. Begin the activity by reading *Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor. Have the students bring a rock in the next day. This rock can be from their backyard, school yard or surrounding area.
2. Give students at least 15 - 20 minutes to examine their rocks, record their characteristics (texture, color, smell, shape, etc.) on *My Rock* worksheet. Have students share with the class characteristics they really like about their own rock.
3. Divide the class into groups of about five students and give each group one bag and have the students place their rocks in the group bag.
4. Within each small group, have students take turns trying to find their own rock by feeling for it (without looking) inside the bag. When students find their own rock have them put it back into the bag for the next student in their group to try the activity. Continue until everyone in the group finds their own rock.
5. Lead a discussion about what characteristics helped the students find their own rock.

Teachers! - check out our web site: [www.nps.gov/lake](http://www.nps.gov/lake) and other educational opportunities for your grade level through our interagency partnership: [www.enviroedexchange.org](http://www.enviroedexchange.org).  
For volunteer opportunities: [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org)