

Grade 3/4: Rocks & Archaeology

Program Overview:

This program explores the different types of soil and rocks and how archaeologists interact with them to study the heritage of Ontario's First People.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this program, students will be able to:

1. Identify the three types of rocks and their characteristics
2. Give examples of how people used rocks in their daily life (past and present)
3. Explain the process of soil formation
4. Investigate the composition of soil and identify the three types of soil
5. Examine the resources and their uses in a historical Indigenous village

Components of Program:

1. Pre-Activities

- I. Identifying Rock Types (Google Slides) + Worksheet
- II. How is Soil Made? Identifying Soil Types (Google Slides) + Worksheet

2. Live Segment: Archaeology and Soils and Rocks

- I. Intro. To Archaeology & Artifacts
- II. Rocks and Archaeology
 1. *What kinds of artifacts are made of rocks?*
 2. *What can they tell us about the past?*
- III. Soils and Archaeology
 1. *Identifying the 3 types of soil*
 2. *What kinds of artifacts are made from soil?*
- IV. Soil Layers in Archaeology & the principle of superposition (Activity)
 1. *Some artifacts have decayed long ago, but their existence is preserved in soil*
 2. *How do Archaeologists use the different colours of soil to help tell a specific time period*

3. Post Activities

- I. Resources of a Longhouse Village (Drag & Drop Worksheet)
Students will complete a map identifying different natural resources and living things around the longhouse village.
- II. Rocks and Soil Artifacts: Then & Now (Drag & Drop Worksheet)
Students will review the types of artifacts made out of rock and soil. They will identify modern objects that are made out of rock or soil.



III. Archaeology of a Soil Layer Cake (Video)

Students will develop their understanding of how soil is formed by the visual representation of the baking of a cake. This video gives students a review of the live segment of the program, discussing the different soil layers and how objects rot and leave behind remains in the soil.

IV. Rock Types and Tools (Quiz)

This quiz reviews the rock types and tools covered in the pre-activity and live presentation.

Curriculum Connections:

Grade 3:

Science: Understanding Earth And Space Systems: Soils in the Environment (1,2,3)

Social Studies: Heritage and Identity: Communities in Canada, 1780-1850 (A1)

Grade 4:

Science: Understanding Life Systems Habitats and Communities (3)

Understanding Earth And Space Systems: Rocks And Minerals (2,3)

Social Studies: Heritage And Identity: Early Societies To 1500 CE (A1, A2)