**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ROCK DETECTIVE**

**Student Handout 1**

**Lab Sheet**

**WONDER WHY...**

Why do rocks look different from each other?

**CONCEPT**

Rocks are a natural, solid, nonliving material made of one or more minerals. Using a dichotomous key, rocks can be identified by **physical properties** such as color, luster, texture, feel or grain size.

**MATERIALS FOR ACTIVITY**

• 1 collection of 10 rocks per group

• 2 magnifying lens per group

• 1 Rock Identification Sheet per student

• 1 Rock Identification Dichotomous Key per student

**SAFETY**

• Keep rocks on the table or desktop.

• Do not put rocks in mouth.

• Wash hands after handling rocks.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Place the rock samples out on the table.
2. Select one rock from the rock samples.
3. Read carefully through the Rock Identification Dichotomous Key to classify and name the rock.
4. Record the rock number on the Rock Identification Sheet in the blank next to the correct name of the rock.
5. Record the physical properties of the rock.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 until all rock samples have been classified.
7. Share your results with the class.