

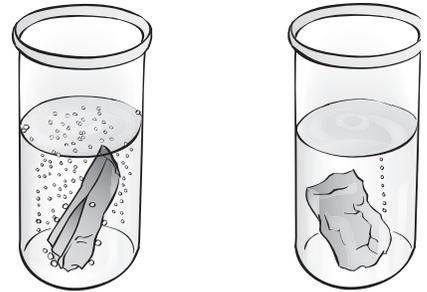
LETTER TO FAMILY

Cut here and glue letter onto school letterhead before making copies.

Science News

Dear Family,

Our class is beginning a new science unit using the **FOSS Soils, Rocks, and Landforms Module**. We will observe soils and explore how the weathering of rocks provides the basic ingredients that form soil. Through stream-table investigations we will investigate how erosion and deposition move earth materials and shape new landforms. We will study how changes in Earth can be due to slow processes, such as erosion, as well as rapid processes, such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.



Later, we will examine a selection of rocks and minerals that make up Earth's crust, and learn some techniques that geologists use to identify them. Finally, we will study earth materials as important natural resources.

You can increase your child's understanding and interest in earth materials by asking him or her to talk about the investigations we are doing at school. To expand your rock and mineral knowledge, you and your child may want to explore soils in your neighborhood, start a rock collection, visit the library, and if possible visit a rock and mineral store or display. A visit to a landscape materials center or a jewelry store (gems are minerals) can expose the broad range of uses for earth materials.

Watch for Home/School Connection sheets that I will be sending home from time to time. These describe ways the whole family can look more closely at soils, rocks, and minerals around your home. Your child will be asked to bring a rock or mineral to class to begin a class collection. He or she may choose to bring a special sample you picked up on a family outing, or a rock collected right around the neighborhood.

We're looking forward to weeks of fun with soils, rocks, minerals, and landforms! If you have questions or comments, or have expertise you would like to share with the class, please drop me a note. You can get more information on this module by going to www.FOSSweb.com.

Sincerely,