

## Educational Activities for Kids at Severn Valley Country Park

### Geology Rock and Fossil Hunt

This geology session explores the formation of rocks and fossils – with particular focus on those present at the country park. The sedimentary rocks sandstone and coal, created during the carboniferous period, have been utilised by local people through the sandstone quarrying and coal mining industries. Children will learn about how these rocks were formed, as well as the creation of fossils. They will also be able to discover how these rocks were used for building houses and heating and powering people's homes.

The activity session will include a rock and fossil hunt on an exposed area of coal spoil in the country park.



#### Duration

Up to 1.5 hours

#### Equipment

Each child will need: suitable clothing and footwear.

We will provide any other equipment including writing and recording sheets, etc.

#### Time of year

All year

#### Contact

Severn Valley Country Park, Chapel Lane,  
Alveley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6NG  
Email: [outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Telephone: **01746 781192**

### Activity Content

Please note that the following pages give a general description of this activity and its links to the curriculum. We reserve the right to make modifications to the content to reflect weather conditions and safety requirements.

We will be very happy to modify and amend the activity contents to enable your children or school to meet specific objectives if required.

**More details of this activity are on the following page ....**

## Activity breakdown and links to National Curriculum

Activity	Curriculum
Housekeeping, hygiene, toilets, food, drink, First Aid, etc. Locations and maps	Science: observing closely, using simple equipment
Welcome children & find out if any of them have been before and what they already know about SVCP. Tell them that there used to be coal mining and sandstone quarrying in the area	Science: performing simple tests Science: identifying and classifying
Inside the visitor centre show the children timeline which starts 310 million years ago. Explain the main parts of the history e.g. coal and sandstone forming; quarrying and mining. Show the children the large pictures of miners' underground and the quarrymen.	Science: using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions Science: compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties
Ask the children if they know what a rock is?	
Using the school rock boxes, ask the children to describe the rocks. Pass round samples of the rock types from rock collection (Rock Boxes) for the children to touch, feel, look at – get them to notice the colours, textures, particles. Are they shiny, dull, soft, hard? Use pipets of water for them to see if the rock is permeable or impermeable.	Science: describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock Science: recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter
Ask the children if they know what a fossil is?	History: changes within living memory
Show the children the fossils in the rock boxes. Explain how fossils are formed – sediment building up quickly after an animal/plant has died. e.g. sand, volcanic ash or mud. Ask the children if they think the fossils they find at the park will be animals or plants?	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at a local scale
Hand out trowels and buckets and walk the children to the area of exposed spoil. Walk passed the coal tub filled with coal and the sandstone grindstones	Maths: Applying mathematics, number and algebra
Children to dig the exposed spoil to see what they can find. They will most likely find coal, ironstone and sandstone.	
Return to the visitor centre to count, sort and compare the rocks and fossils found. The children will be able to view them with hand lens and also under the microscope.	

See our [Teachers Guide](#) for more detailed information on curriculum

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