

Be a Geologist



Geology is the study of the Earth.

What might a geologist do?

- Search for fossils in rock layers.
- Look for oil, coal, gold or diamonds.
- Climb a volcano and try to figure out when it will erupt next.
- Help engineers find the best places to build things like bridges and buildings.



Tools of the Trade



Hand lens — to take a closer look at rocks, minerals, sand or fossils



Rock hammer — to carefully split rocks open



Compass — to identify position and direction

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Geology in *NatureQuest*

Try these activities if you would like to be a geologist.



Lift the sediment core in the pine flatwoods and investigate the three layers of soil.

Top: Topsoil. What can you see in this layer?

Middle: Middle soil horizon. How is it different from the top and bottom layers?

Bottom: Rock. Can you guess how soil is formed?

Compare the layers of the pine flatwoods soil to the sediment cores in the swamp and the ocean.

Explore the rocks along the river. How do the shapes and sizes change from the waterfall to the ocean? Why do you think this is happening?

Open the two fossil drawers in the rock wall. How do fossils give clues about the past?

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