



## Little Rocks- Teacher Notes



For this series of activities you will need a number of small rocks. Some suggested suppliers of these are:

1. Egg sized rocks can be bought in bags from the garden section of your hardware store or florist. Ten dollars buys more than 25 rounded decent sized pebbles, most of which are imported from China. Many of these rocks were initially rounded river stones but have been polished by rolling them in a metal drum with steel balls. Polishing makes them easier to decorate but masks some of the rock's detail if you want to look for differences between rocks.
2. Collect rocks during the year from the yard, their garden, on the beach and almost anywhere except within National Parks.
3. Ask students to bring rocks from home, or, if their parents work somewhere else such as a Pilbara or Goldfields mine site, ask them to collect some for the class.

Suggest to students that their rocks must be able to fit into egg cartons. This makes them easier to count and tidy away. Student's names can be written on the back of the rocks to prevent squabbles



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### Decorating the rocks

#### Eyes

Packets of sew-on and stick-on goggle eyes can be cheaply bought in craft shops and large shops. I flattened the sewing tab on the back with my thumbnail before applying good glue to the back and sticking it to the rock. The large eyes cost just over \$1.00 for eight in 2017. Smaller eyes cost even less.

OR

Dip the blunt end of an old pencil into white paint and blob it twice onto the rock to make the white parts of the eye. A black permanent marker dot can be added after the paint has dried. Eyelashes can be added using a thin permanent ink marker.



#### Ears, mouth etc.

Plasticine or modeling clay sticks on rock and is easier to shape than play dough.





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### For teacher consideration and student safety.

Humans have used rocks for many purposes during the history of mankind. We have made tools of them, jewelry of them, used them to produce sparks to light fires, used them for shelter and for defense and aggression.



In many parts of the world children still use rocks as weapons. In my own semi-rural Scottish childhood we called rocks that fitted nicely in our hands "chuckies" because they were good for chucking or throwing.

The biblical story of David killing the giant Goliath with only 5 small stones and a sling is a fine example of this.

To be able to throw a rock effectively a person needs to be standing so they can use the strong muscles and tendons of the back and legs to add power to the arm. Our bodies act like a woomera and increase the power of forward thrust of the missile.

I heartily recommend that all of our rock based activities should be carried while students are either sitting at their desks or on the mat.

