About:

We don’t always have the materials or the green thumb to plant and care for a vegetable garden, but everyone can establish a rock garden!

Objective:

To use Social Emotional Development and NGSS informed practices while developing fine motor skills and exploring creativity.

Age: 5-11  Expected time: 45 min

- Determine boundaries around the rock garden. Some questions to ask are:
  - Where will it be? Inside? Outside? If it’s outside are rocks allowed inside?
  - How big will it be? The size of a paper plate? A flower bed? Bigger?
  - What materials are allowed in the rock garden? Just rocks? Soil? Flowers?
  - Who’s allowed to add/take away from the garden?
  - What is the purpose behind the garden? Is it to have as many rocks as possible? The prettiest rocks? Rocks that help make a picture?
  - What are the boundaries behind the rocks? Is there a minimum size? Maximum size? Number?

- Go for a walk. Collect rocks that fit the boundaries you talked about before.
- After your walk, establish your rock garden. Sometimes this means piling all the rocks you found and seeing how they stack together. Other times this means carefully arranging them so the prettiest rocks are highlighted. Get creative!

Wrap Up:

- What’s your favorite rock?
- Are there any patterns in your rock collection?
- Why did you design the garden the way you did? What else do you need to make it how you envisioned it.