

Activity 13: Starburst Geology

Topic: Geology

Suggested branches: Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders

Time required: About 15 minutes

Girls will learn about sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rock, using candy to experiment.

Have teams of girls prepare 3 packages of “rocks.” For each package, they will need to unwrap 3 Starbursts, pile them one on top of the other, wrap the pile tightly in wax paper and then tightly again in tinfoil. It will help to use colours of starbursts that stand out against each other.

Sedimentary rocks are created by pressure over time. Have the girls choose one of the packages and press down (with their hands or feet) as hard as they can.

Metamorphic rocks are created through pressure and heat. Choose another package and place it in the toaster oven for 2 minutes. When the time is up, take it out and wrap it in a tea towel. Have the girls press down on it as they did for the first package.

Igneous rocks are created through extreme heat. Place the third package in the toaster oven for 5-10 minutes (until the candy is melted). Don’t let the girls touch this package, as it will be very hot.

Once they are cool, open all the packages and have the girls make observations about what they see. How are the three types of rocks different? How do they think these types of rocks might be formed naturally?

Program Connections:

Sparks:

Exploring and Experimenting #4

Brownies:

Key to STEM – Special Interest Badge

Guides:

Beyond You – Learn about our Environment #6

Pathfinders:

It’s About Time #4

Supplies:

- Starburst candies
- Wax paper
- Tinfoil
- Oven mitts
- Tea towel
- Toaster oven