Grandpa’s Rock Kit

by Donna Foley
illustrated by Burgandy Beam
attic
board
chores
customers
label
spare
stamps

Word count: 424

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.
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Photographs

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Illustrations Burgandy Beam

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Every Saturday Danny and Tina helped their mother with chores around the house. One Saturday she had them climb into the attic.

Then Mom said, “Today we’ll clean boxes out of here. It will be fun. Not every box is labeled. You never know what you’ll find.”
Danny found a big, heavy box.

“I think this box is heavy because it has some of Grandpa’s rocks,” Mom said as they unpacked the box.
“Grandpa collected rocks and stamps when he was your age,” Mom said. “Later on, he made rock kits that customers bought. I bet we’ll find a spare kit in this box. It looks like a board.”

“Here it is,” Danny said, lifting up the kit. “Grandpa must have known a lot about rocks.”

A rock kit contains many different kinds of rocks.
“I’ll share with you some of what Grandpa told me,” Mom said. “Earth has three layers. The core is at Earth’s center. The middle layer is called the mantle. The crust is the thin outer layer. It has three kinds of rocks.”

The crust is the thinnest of Earth’s three layers.
“Igneous rock is the most common rock. It is made by heat. Magma is hot melted rock in the center of Earth. Sometimes magma pushes to the surface through a volcano. It flows out as lava. Cooled lava is igneous rock,” Mom said.
“Granite is igneous rock. Granite is usually gray. It can have tiny white and black crystals. Some granite has pink crystals,” Mom said as she held up a rock for Tina to see.
“Another rock is sedimentary rock. Sandstone is sedimentary rock. Rivers carry sand to lakes and seas. Layers of sand settle to the bottom. The top layers of sand press down on the bottom layers. This pressing turns sand into sandstone. Sandstone is soft and sandy,” Mom said.
“Limestone is sedimentary rock too. It is made from sea animals’ skeletons. Sometimes you can see the skeletons in the rock. Limestone is often white. It can be pink, tan, or other colors too.”
Mom picked up another rock from the kit. “The third kind of rock is metamorphic rock. Heat and pressure change some rocks into metamorphic rocks. Marble is metamorphic. It has changed from limestone. Marble is usually white. It may have swirls of color in it.”
“Grandpa’s rocks are really neat. Are there more?” Tina asked, looking at a piece of marble.

“Hmm,” Mom said, “I think his entire collection is probably in one of these boxes. Why don’t you guys try to find it?”

“That sounds great! Then you can tell us more about rocks!” Danny and Tina exclaimed.
1. Reread pages 11 and 12. Find one fact and one opinion on those pages. Write the sentences that tell the fact and the opinion in a chart like the one below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fact</th>
<th>Opinion</th>
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2. Look at the limestone on page 10. What inference can you make about the area where that piece of limestone came from? What do you think the area was like over many years’ time? How does that help you understand rocks?

3. Show that you know what an attic is by using the word in a sentence.

4. Magma is found inside Earth. Look at the drawing of Earth’s layers on pages 6–7 and reread the text. Which layer is magma found in?
Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Comprehension Skills and Strategy</th>
<th>Text Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrative nonfiction</td>
<td>• Fact and Opinion</td>
<td>• Captions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cause and Effect</td>
<td>• Labels</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Inferring</td>
<td>• Diagrams</td>
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</table>

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