

Rocks and Fossils

Duration: 45 mins

Available: Wednesdays and Fridays

Group size: up to 17 pupils per workshop (4 available per day)

Cost: £30 per workshop

Location: The Learning Curve



Basic Information

This hands-on workshop explores how coal and other sedimentary rocks are formed. Pupils get to handle rocks and fossils and take part in practical activities, which develop scientific enquiry skills.

Breakdown of session

Pupils are taken back in time to see and hear what West Yorkshire would have looked and sounded like 300 million years ago. Pupils explore 5 large sedimentary rocks samples, working out what they are and how they were formed. They look at different ways you can investigate layers of rocks using photos and a rock strata plan from the collection. Pupils then create their own strata plan to take back to school. There is the chance for the class to handle fossils and find out what they can tell us about life on earth in the past. Pupils then make a replica fossil to take back to school.

How can group leaders help?

The pupils will work in small groups to do some of the activities, so it would be helpful if group leaders could support pupils and facilitate their discussions. Your enthusiasm and participation is much appreciated.

Links to topics

- Working scientifically
- Rocks and fossils
- Materials
- Local heritage

Learning Outcomes

Pupils will:

- Know that coal is a 'sedimentary' rock and is over 300 million years old
- Know that coal, along with the other rocks here at the Museum, are all sedimentary.
- Understand how coal was formed.
- Understand in simple terms that fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within sedimentary rock (e.g. coal).

Links to curriculum

KS2 Science

- Working scientifically
- Rocks and fossils

KS2 Geography

- Land use

Other places to visit on site

Coal Interface Gallery: See the fossils on display and find out about the technical and scientific problems that miners faced at work; the tools they used and how men and coal were transported.

Rocks Trail: This costs £10 per booking and takes pupils on a trail around site looking at how different rocks have been used in situ.

We recommend that you book the **Hands-On Underground Tour** and request the *geology* area.

Suggested Pre Visit Activities

- Find out what coal is and what it is used for. Take a look at our [Factsheets](#) for more information.
- Discuss the different categories of rocks in geology.

Suggested Post Visit Activities

- Use the rock strata sheets from your workshop to discuss the different sedimentary rocks.
- Create flow charts to illustrate how different rocks were made and the environments that produced them. Take a look at our [Science Resources](#) for more information about rocks.
- Write a poem or story about how fossils were made.
- Create a soundscape of what West Yorkshire was like when coal was being formed 300 million years ago.