



Murphy Ranch Trail is located within Murphy Ranch Park at 16200 Las Cumbres Dr. Whittier, Ca 90603 (here is a [map](#)). It is a moderately easy hike, approximately 1.7 miles round trip. Visit [AllTrails](#) for information about this trail (not to be confused with the one near Pacific Palisades).

BEFORE YOU START

Remember, always stay on the trail and do not take any rocks with you as you complete this activity. Let's leave nature the way it is so that everyone can enjoy it.

ACTIVITY 1: FINDING ROCKS

Look for rocks along the trail. Once you find a rock, observe it closely. The goal is to find 5-10 different types of rocks during your hike. Take a picture (or two) of each rock so that after you are finished hiking you can remember all the rocks you saw along the way.

Try to find the following types of rocks.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| One that is shiny | One that is rough | One that is dull |
| One that is smooth | One with cracks/holes | One that is speckled |
| One that is small | One that is large | |

ACTIVITY 2: CLASSIFYING ROCKS

Once you've completed your hike, look through your pictures.

How might you group the rocks?

You may not find rocks that match all the descriptions but, with adult permission search online and see if you can find a rock to match the description to draw. **How would you label your categories?**

Once you've grouped your rocks by one feature, or **property**, think of another way to group them. Are the same rocks grouped together the second time around?

Just as you classified rocks by similar **properties** (like color, hardness, and luster to name a few). **Geologists** (scientists who study the earth, including its history) classify rocks and minerals separately (for an overview, click [here](#)). Geologists classify rocks into three basic types: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. If you'd like to learn more about these classifications of rocks, try one of these links ([Britannica](#) for younger readers, or [American Museum of Natural History](#) for older readers).

EXTENSIONS

If you enjoyed this activity and would like to learn more about rocks, here are some great next steps.

- [Rock Games for Younger Learners](#)
- [For Short Videos on Rock Types](#)

When we think about places in the United States that are "known" for their rocks, a few come to mind. Check one out! (Virtual Tours Available)

- [Yosemite National Park](#) (California)
- [Grand Canyon National Park](#) (Arizona)
- [Arches National Park](#) (Utah)
- [Mount Rushmore National Park](#) (South Dakota)

