

Balancing Act Second Grade



Location

Any outdoor area.

Activity Length

30-60 minutes

Materials Needed

- Rocks (collected by students)
- "Planks" (thin, strong, and flat wood or strong plastic rectangular pieces 1-2 feet in length)
- Use a plank and rock to create a balance for every two students.
- Rocks: Hard, Soft, Smooth, and Rough by Natalie M. Rosinsky or similar book on rock formation.

Preparation

Collect items to be used for planks.

Activity

- Working in pairs, set up balances using a plank and rock and collect rocks to balance.
- Discuss different rock types and their properties.
- Tell students that small rocks are formed from the breakage and weathering of larger rocks.
- Read a book to students on how rocks are formed.
- Make predictions about balancing different types of rocks. Will all big rocks be heavier than smaller rocks? Does color/shape matter? Will rocks with holes weigh more or less than other rocks of equal size?
- Show the students how to balance rocks using their plank and fulcrum.
- Use planks to balance various rocks (small, large, dense, porous, etc.).
- Observe and explore balance by varying objects or fulcrum.
- Reflect on observations as a group.

Standards Connections

- *Next Generation Science Standards*
2-ESS1-1, 2-PS1-1
- *NRC Framework*
Scientific & Engineering Practices: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8
Crosscutting Concepts: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7
Disciplinary Core Ideas: ESS1-C, EES2, PS1-A
- *Common Core State Standards*
ELA/Literacy: W.2.8, R1.2.1
Mathematics: MP.2

Activity compiled by FRJUSD teachers and Spring Rivers Foundation.

