

RockVA CD-ROM: A Brief Overview

Introduction – A group of students introduces the program as a way to learn about rocks and minerals and how they are important for Virginia.

Main Menu – A brief overview of the different components of the program that provides basic information about each part:

- ☞ **Mineral Observation** – Students are asked to answer multiple choice questions about several mineral samples provided in the Luck Stone Kit. The questions accompany a photograph of a mineral and are in the form “This Mineral Has...,” with 2-3 questions per mineral.
- ☞ **Mineral Identification** – Students learn about the tests scientists perform to identify minerals. These include color, streak, hardness, luster, specific gravity, crystal form, and cleavage. This is a particularly good part to use with students to help prepare them to do *Activity 1, Rock Observations*.
- ☞ **Rock Observation** – Students are asked to answer multiple choice questions (similar to Mineral Observation) about the rocks provided in the Luck Stone Kit. Once the set of questions for a rock is answered correctly, the rock is identified. It’s helpful to have the actual rock samples available during this part of the CD-ROM.
- ☞ **Rock Identification** – Students learn the different ways rocks are formed and are asked to identify rocks as sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic.
- ☞ **Geological Concepts** – Students learn how rocks are formed and changed over time. These concepts include the parts of the Earth, plate tectonics, weathering, and the different types of rocks. This is another particularly good part to use with students to help prepare them to do *Activity 1, Rock Observations*.
- ☞ **Virginia Geology** – Students learn about the five geological regions of Virginia, with a brief description and geological history of each.
- ☞ **Life in the Rocks** – Students learn about fossils, how they are formed, and the use of fossil fuels such as coal.
- ☞ **It’s a Blast** – A representative of the Luck Stone Corporation explains the many uses of rocks and how they are processed. Students also see a demonstration of an explosion in a rock quarry.

Additional Icons – These icons can be accessed from the Main Menu and all subsequent Screens and provide additional help or information:

- ☞ **Main Map** – Returns students to the Main Menu from other sections of the program.
- ☞ **Rock Talk** – Provides students with a dictionary of terms related to the rocks and minerals that they will encounter in the program. Teachers themselves will find this an easy way to review or learn some basic ideas about the earth sciences.
- ☞ **Rock Clock** – Introduces students to the geologic time scale and provides a timeline, with interesting facts and pictures, that lists the different periods.
- ☞ **Rock Solid (for teachers only)** – Provides summaries and photographs of each of the 22 rocks and minerals in the Luck Stone Rock Kit.