

THE ROCK SURFACE EVIDENCE WALK

Why are some rocks smooth and others rough? • OUTDOOR • 25-45 min • BRR-WJ-031-ACT-01

GRAB

Field Notes • pencil/crayon • optional magnifier • optional ruler • phone camera

THE TEST

- 1

Pick two safe outdoor sites. Example: gravel path edge + natural soil area.
- 2

Observe 4-6 rocks per site. Leave them in place when possible.
- 3

Score texture: 0 very smooth • 1 mostly smooth • 2 mixed • 3 rough • 4 very rough/jagged.
- 4

Describe edges: rounded / mixed / angular. Note chips, grains, cracks, polish, pits, or scratches.
- 5

Compare. Which site had more rounded edges? Higher texture scores? Different rock types? Use “could mean,” not “proves.”

FIELD NOTE MINI-TABLE

#	Site	0-4	Edges	Clue
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

QC

Same scale • similar sample count • note human-moved gravel • keep odd results • compare context as well as texture. Smooth does not automatically mean older or farther traveled.

SAFETY

Stable permitted ground only. No road cuts, unstable slopes, steep banks, or wading. Leave rocks where required. Toddlers touch only stable rocks too large for the mouth; wash hands after.

TINY SCIENTIST JOBS

Point to smooth vs rough • touch one safe large rock with each hand • choose the “bumpy” one • make a crayon texture mark in the Field Notes Binder.

RABBIT HOLE

National Park Service - Coastal Sediments: [Sorting](#) • verified 2026-09-11

BENCH NOTE

Texture is evidence, not a verdict. Rock type, fresh breaks, weathering, abrasion, transport, and human handling can all leave marks.