

Welcome Chaperone! Explore the Museum's main building, the Nature Exploration Center (NEC), and be on the lookout for rocks and minerals. This guide offers easy activities to help you engage your students in learning.

First floor, North Carolina Treasures Gallery, *near shark jaw*

Minerals can be rare or common.

Find gold, our state mineral.

The first gold nugget found in North Carolina weighed 17 pounds or 272 ounces! How much does the nugget in this case weigh? (*4 ounces*)

Find the tubes of clay.

How many different colors of clay are on display? (*12*)

Iron is a mineral that rusts and becomes orange or red. Which clay tubes also have iron in them? (*red and orange*)

Rocks are made of minerals.

Find the rock called Mt. Airy Granite.

Granite is our state rock. What colors can you see in this rock? (*primarily gray, black and white*) Each color is a different mineral.

Look for the North Carolina map on the floor made of rock pieces.

Can you find the granite? (*Panel on left lists the different types of rocks.*)

Second floor, Nature's Explorers Gallery, *enter near the elevators*

North Carolina rocks!

These spheres or balls were made from rocks mined in North Carolina.

What are the two most common rocks on display? (*granite and marble*)

Pick a rock on the first row and look at it closely. How many colors can you find? The colors are different minerals that make up that rock.

Second floor, Underground North Carolina *enter near the Discovery Room entrance*

Rock Scavenger Hunt

Use rock samples attached to the panels in the *Assembling North Carolina* exhibit.

Find a rock with:

- Flat layers or stripes
- Curved layers or stripes
- Spots of different-colored minerals
- No layers or spots

