Rock Art Activity
Crafting instructions for painting rocks for use in a garden

The term “river or beach rock/pebbles” refers to a diverse group of rocks that have been worn and rounded by moving water over long periods of time. River and beach rocks are most often found on beaches and in stream beds and can come in a range of sizes, colors and textures. One of the most common uses of these types of rocks is found in landscaping. If you have a garden, you may have some smooth river or beach rocks lying around. Please remember Leave No Trace Principles and do not take rocks, fossils, plant specimens, or anything else out of federal or state lands. So, let’s do some art!

Activity Time: Approx. 2 hours, family-friendly, K-12

Materials:
- Smooth rocks
- Water-based paints, acrylic paints or permanent markers of different colors
- Paint brushes
- Wax, news or scratch paper

*Tip: Before you start painting your design on the rock, make a draft of your design on a piece of paper.

Science Connection
The most common river or beach rocks are made of granite. Granite is categorized as an intrusive igneous rock, which means it formed below Earth’s surface as magma slowly cooled and crystallized. Granite is composed mainly of quartz and feldspar with minor amounts of other minerals. This results in a huge variety of colors ranging from gray and black to white, green, and even purple!
WHAT TO DO

1. Wash and dry your stone.
2. Paint your stone with a solid color, creating your background color.
3. Once your background color has dried, you can begin painting your design.
4. Let your rock dry on wax paper, newspaper, or scratch paper.
5. When the rock is dry, place your rock back in the garden or place it on your bedside table.

Click on the video link below to see the rock art project in action!