

Pebble pals

You will need: lots of pots and bags to collect **pebbles** in or some egg boxes, suitably painted and decorated to help with pebble sorting!

Look for stones that make you smile, ones that can be thrown far, a pebble that keeps a secret

Set off on a walk around your local area, begin in your garden, and find the best pebbles for sorting.

Find a crumbly pebble, a smooth pebble, a rough pebble, a colourful pebble, a special pebble. Look for **stones** that make you smile, ones that can be thrown far, a pebble that keeps a secret – carry it in your pocket. Collect lots of pebbles!

At home keep your collection in a special box and bring it out to play with.

Which is biggest?
Which is smallest?
Have you found one that is round?

Nicest colour?
Cutest shape?
Is there one which makes a sound?

Have you two that look alike?
Look for more on another hike?



draw with them
play with them

bring them back from holidays
and share them with your friends

Drop them into water (outside)
Look and listen to the splash

Can you find a stone that floats?





Rock garden

The Japanese like to create special quiet gardens with only **rock** and **sand**.

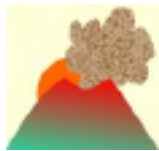
The Japanese like to create special quiet gardens with only rock and sand.

You can do this too.

You will need a wee space in your garden or a shallow container with some sand in.

A fork to rake with!

Use sand or **soil** and rake it smooth. Place **pebbles** carefully in your little garden. Rake the sand or soil into patterns.



Soil and water

Soil is actually made up of lots of tiny pieces of **stone** mixed up with tiny bits of plant (and animal!) **life**. Take a handful of soil and put it into a clear plastic container. Top up with water, put the lid on and shake. Leave it alone to settle out and look at what has happened.

What happens if you use soil from different parts of your garden?

dig a hole and find out!

What happens if you use soil for the same thing from deeper down - dig a hole and find out!

Try this experiment at the beach, too. Can you find the same '**rock**' patterns across the beach.

Always ask an adult to help!

