

MONTHLY MEDIA DISPATCH

The newsletter of the Erie 2 BOCES Media Center

A Box Full of Rocks (. . . and Minerals)

There is no substitute for engaging with a subject directly, through experience.

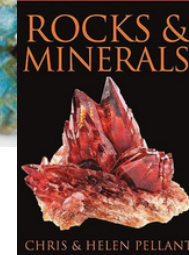
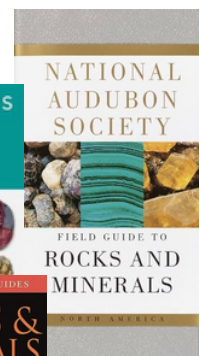
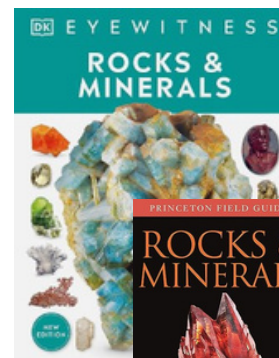
Although much of the Earth's surface happens to be made of rocks (and minerals), some *types* of rock are harder to come by than others. And if you do happen to find an intriguing specimen, how can you tell which kind of rock it is—if it even is a rock at all?

Luckily, the Media Center has taken some of the legwork out of teaching Earth science with our brand-new curriculum kit: [Rocks and Minerals](#).

This kit contains 48 different types of rocks and minerals, with two samples of each type—labeled for your convenience. Your students will be able to both feel and see the distinguishing features of each sample, learning experientially about the rock cycle and the three major rock types (igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary) along the way. They can zoom in for a closer look with the included magnifying glasses, 12 per kit.

And if that's not enough rocks, use our included field guides to discover and identify your own specimens out in the field! The included guides cover a wide range of grade levels, from the comprehensive and scientifically rigorous National Audubon Society field guide to the more kid-friendly DK Eyewitness: Rocks & Minerals.

So treat yourself and your students to a box . . . of rocks! (And minerals.) We promise, it's much more interesting than it sounds.



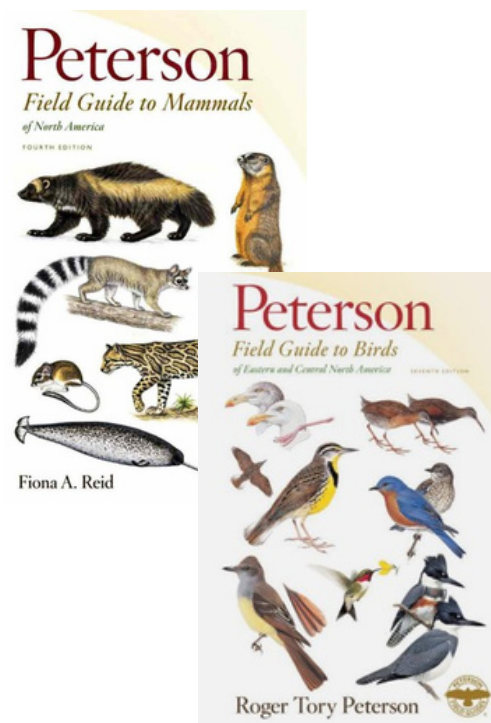
Other Field Guides Also Available

We wish that we could include specimens in these kits too, but there's really only so much that we can do here at the Media Center.

Regardless, your students will definitely enjoy exploring the flora and fauna that surround us with these two sets of field guides!

For motile creatures, check out our kit of field guides to [birds and mammals](#). Includes 10 copies of the Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America, as well as 10 copies of the Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America. This kit also includes 15 binoculars, because wildlife is sometimes easier to examine from a distance.

For 15 extra binoculars, or if you'd just like a set of binoculars without field guides, check out [this kit](#).



If it's not motile but *sessile* organisms that you're after, we've got you covered! Our set of field guides to [plants and mushrooms](#) can inspire the budding botanists and mycologists in your classroom.

This kit includes 14 copies of the authoritative National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees: Eastern Region, plus 10 copies of the more streamlined and succinct Peterson First Guide to Trees of North America. Also includes 10 copies of each of the following folding pocket guides, published by Waterford Press: Edible Wild Plants, Medicinal Plants, and Mushrooms.

And, coming soon: Fossils!

To round out our selection of field guides and samples for teaching science, we will also be adding a kit of materials all about fossils, which will include a number of real fossil samples!

Stay tuned for more info!

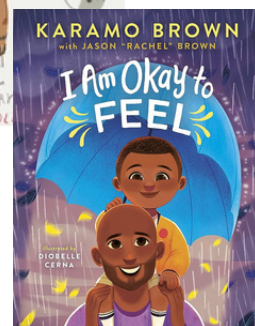


Materials for Social and Emotional Learning

For building self-awareness and self-management in younger students, the development of a greater awareness of emotions, in oneself and in others, can be crucial. To support that work, we have a new curriculum kit: [Understanding Emotions](#).

This kit includes two sets of Emotion Sorting Boxes, which encourage kids to reflect on the emotions that arise for them in different situations. Twenty tiles depict various scenarios, pleasant or challenging, that students can sort into the box corresponding to the emotion that that scenario evokes.

A variety of engaging picture books about emotions are also included, such as *The Crayons' Book of Feelings* by Drew Daywalt, and *I Am Okay to Feel* by Karamo Brown.



Other New Kits Now Available

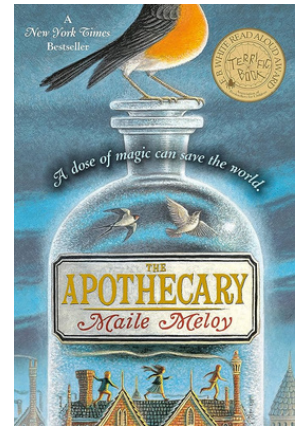
- [Foam Dinosaur Bones](#)
- [Jumbo Magnetic Building Tiles](#)
- [Magnetic Design Center Board](#)
- [Magnetic Activity Sets](#)
- [Animal and Plant Cell Models](#)
- [Giant Inflatable Solar System](#)
- [Alphabet and Number Stepping Stones](#)
- [Balance Beams and Stepping Stones](#)

New Multiple Copies

The Apothecary – by Maile Meloy

It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy.

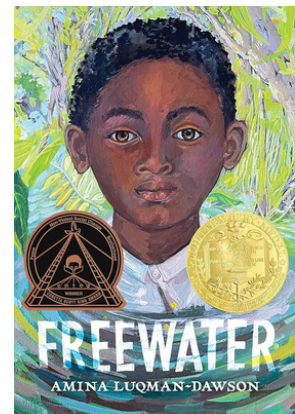
When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the hands of their enemies - Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Discovering and testing potions they never believed could exist, Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster.



Freewater – by Amina Luqman-Dawson

Under the cover of night, twelve-year-old Homer flees Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving their beloved mother behind. Much as he adores her and fears for her life, Homer knows there's no turning back, not with the overseer on their trail. Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, the two find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp.

In this society created by formerly enslaved people and some freeborn children, Homer finds new friends, almost forgetting where he came from. But when he learns of a threat that could destroy Freewater, he crafts a plan to find his mother and help his new home.



Merci Suárez Changes Gears – by Meg Medina

Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, as strong and thoughtful as Merci is, she has never been completely like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy.

Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately – forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. And Merci is left to her own worries, because no one in her family will tell her what's going on. . .



Iveliz Explains It All – by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Seventh grade is going to be Iveliz's year. She's going to make a new friend, help her abuela Mimi get settled after moving from Puerto Rico, and she is not going to get into any more trouble at school. . . .

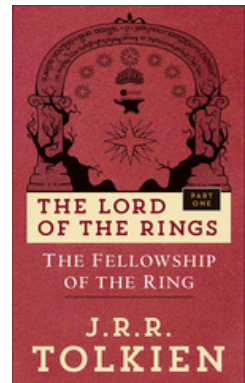
Except is that what happens? Of course not. Because no matter how hard Iveliz tries, sometimes people say things that just make her so mad. And worse, Mimi keeps saying Iveliz's medicine is unnecessary—even though it helps Iveliz feel less sad. But how do you explain your feelings to others when you're not even sure what's going on yourself?



The Fellowship of the Ring – by J. R. R. Tolkien

The opening novel of The Lord of the Rings—the greatest fantasy epic of all time—which continues in *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*.

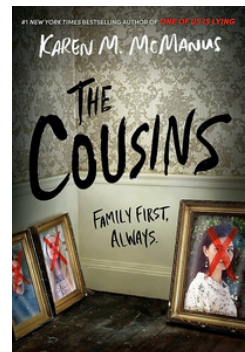
The dark, fearsome Ringwraiths are searching for a Hobbit. Frodo Baggins knows that they are seeking him and the Ring he bears—the Ring of Power that will enable evil Sauron to destroy all that is good in Middle-earth. Now it is up to Frodo and his faithful servant, Sam, with a small band of companions, to carry the Ring to the one place it can be destroyed: Mount Doom, in the very center of Sauron's realm.



The Cousins – by Karen M. McManus

Milly, Aubrey, and Jonah Story are cousins, but they barely know each other, and they've never even met their grandmother. Rich and reclusive, she disinherited their parents before they were born. So when they each receive a letter inviting them to work at her island resort for the summer, they're surprised . . . and curious.

Their parents are all clear on one point--not going is not an option. This could be the opportunity to get back into Grandmother's good graces. But when the cousins arrive on the island, it's immediately clear that she has different plans for them. And the longer they stay, the more they realize how mysterious--and dark--their family's past is.



Other new multiple copy titles now available:

- *When You Trap a Tiger* – by Tae Keller
- *Remarkably Bright Creatures* – by Shelby van Pelt
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* – by Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Martian Chronicles* – by Ray Bradbury
- *A Mango-Shaped Space* – by Wendy Mass
- *Ghost* – by Jason Reynolds
- *Out of My Mind* – by Sharon M. Draper
- *Rebound* – by Kwame Alexander
- *Team Up* – by Raúl the Third