



Key Stage 2 Educational quarry visit and workshop - Rocks and Fossils Suitable Years 3 & 4, 5 & 6.

This programme includes a full day of classroom sessions including a unique tour to a Mendip operational super quarry at Whatley, Mells near Frome.

The children will learn to work scientifically to sort and identify eight different rocks using a hands-on investigative approach. Students will be introduced to the rock cycle and the three rock forming processes, Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic. They will discover the rocks main properties and how we all use rocks in our lives everyday (cleaning your teeth will never be the same again!).

The second session on Fossils, following on from the quarry tours and rock testing is usually after lunch.

Fossils and evolution of living things is discussed using games and fact finding activities to understand what fossils are, how they are formed and a short session on identifying real fossil specimens to complete their own fact file.

All students will be taken by minibus in up to three groups on a quarry tour around a working quarry. This will allow them to see the process of quarrying from drilling holes for the blast, to picking the rock up in giant shovels, loading into dumper trucks and then taking the rock to be crushed and sorted, before finally it being loaded onto trains and lorries for delivery to projects throughout South and South West UK.

We cannot promise a blast but if there is one, we will do our best to allow the children to watch it from a safe viewing platform at the quarry perimeter.

Allow minimum of 4.5 hours for a full class of 30+ to visit SESC including quarry tours in three groups. All must wear outdoor clothes, covered arms/legs, walking boots or wellies. Safety wear for quarry tour will be provided. Please bring a change of footwear for use inside the centre.

Megablast video

Watch the biggest blast ever done at Whatley Quarry. It used 28,410kg of explosives, resulting in 176,580 tonnes of rock blasted from rockface.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lt5jIPjW8Cw>

(or search Whatley megablast on You Tube)