



**NATURE JOURNALING THRU THE SEASONS**  
**AFRICAN NATURE STUDY**

**AFRICAN  
GRANITE**

**African Nature Study**  
**by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons**

## First African Nature Study: African Granite

### **Rocks & Minerals**

**Rocks** are the essential components of our planet. They are classified into three major groups, determined by how the rocks were formed: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary. Rocks are aggregates of many different mineral grains, which are fused, cemented, or bound together.

**Minerals** are solid, inorganic elements or elements compounds. They have definite atomic structures and chemical compositions.

#### **What's the difference of Rocks & Minerals?**

Rocks are a mixture of minerals locked together. For example, granite is made of the minerals quartz, feldspar, and mica.

Minerals are natural chemical substances that usually form as solid crystal. Each type can be recognized by its hardness, colour and atomic structure.

### **African Granite**

**Granite** is pale pink or grey with some dark speckling. The mineral grains are quite large and uniform because the magma from which they formed cooled slowly. This a hard rock that forms smooth, rounded outcrops.

Igneous rock or magmatic rock, is one of the three main rock types, the others being ... It also causes volcanism in intraplate regions, such as Europe, Africa and the Pacific sea floor. Granite is an igneous rock that forms from magma as it cools and hardens deep under the earth's surface.

The common minerals in granite: Granite is a coarse- grained, light- coloured rock composed mainly of feldspars, quartz and small amounts of mica.

Use of Granite: Granite can be carefully cut and used decoratively, either polished or unpolished, on buildings or on floors. It is also used to make and counter tops.

One of the best place to see Granite is in the Matobo Hills, south of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe as well as in Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa.

Fact File:

Colour: White, grey & pink

Grain Size: Coarse and crystalline

Minerals: Quartz, feldspar & mica

Origin: Intrusive

The oldest rocks are of Archean age (i.e., about 4.6 to 2.5 billion years old) and are found in the so-called granite-gneiss-greenstone terrains of the Kaapvaal, Zimbabwe, and Congo cratons. They consist of gray, banded gneisses, various granitoids, and rather well-preserved volcanic rocks that show evidence of submarine extrusion and formation under high temperatures.

## **Composer study**

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)

Messa da Requiem

<https://youtu.be/4fzvIWh3mds>

## **Something to watch**

<https://youtu.be/G7xFfezsJ1s>

## **Artist**



Close up of polychrome paintings of eland antelope made by ancestral San hunter-gatherers, perhaps 1500 to 200 years ago at an important site in the Ukhahlamba-Drakensberg National Park.

## **Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock:**

pages 743- 776

## **Poetry**

### **At Stonehenge**

**By Katharine Lee Bates**

Grim stones whose gray lips keep your secret well,  
Our hands that touch you touch an ancient terror,  
An ancient woe, colossal citadel  
Of some fierce faith, some heaven-affronting error.

Rude-built, as if young Titans on this wold  
Once played with ponderous blocks a striding giant  
Had brought from oversea, till child more bold  
Tumbled their temple down with foot defiant.

Upon your fatal altar Redbreast combs  
A fluttering plume, and flocks of eager swallows  
Dip fearlessly to choose their April homes  
Amid your crevices and storm-beat hollows.

Even so in elemental mysteries,  
Portentous, vast, august, uncomprehended,  
Do we dispose our little lives for ease,  
By their unconscious courtesies befriended.

### **Materials:**

Journals  
Pencils  
Watercolour  
Eraser  
Ruler  
Brushes

## **Indoor or Outdoor activities:**

Create a nature journal entry, draw the rock life cycle.

### **Observations:**

What minerals do you find in granite? Look at the granite with lens. How can you tell the quartz from feldspar? Take a knife and scratch the two. Can you tell them apart in that way? How can you tell the mica? How can you tell the hornblende?

### **Nature Journaling:**

Add the following in your journal:

Date

Time

Drawing

Your observations

Location

Weather

Lens

Words

Label the frog parts

Quotes, Poetry

Measurements

Scientific name

## **Painting & drawing**

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/how-to-draw-rocks/>

**Here's the video links of getting to know more about Nature journaling.**

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/introduction-to-nature-journaling-video/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/getting-started-with-nature-journaling-video/>

## **References:**

Wikipedia.org, African rock art, Handbook of Nature Study by A. Comstock and Nick Norman from Box of Rocks

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798820646986484>