

## Investigating rocks

### Permeability test

The permeability test determines whether rocks allow water to permeate their surface or to run off. Consideration can be given to the implications this has for the use of this rock in the environment and to the process of weathering.

#### *Procedure*

- Distribute rock samples without their names and droppers with water
- Discuss the importance of carrying out a fair test (amount of water)
- Children record their predictions on the task card
- Teacher models the permeability test
- Children carry out the test and record their findings on the task card

Note: If vinegar is substituted for water in this test it determines whether the rock is limestone as the acid in the vinegar reacts with the alkaline calcium to produce a fizzing/hissing sound.

On completion of this investigation invite the children read the rock descriptions once again and to discuss any changes they would like to make to the names they had written for the rock samples on previous investigations.

Distribute the Geology map of Ireland ( on this website or available in some atlases )and invite the children to name the counties where these rocks are located.

Drop some water onto each rock sample and record if it soaks in (permeable) or runs off (non-permeable)			
Rock sample	Predict	Test	
1			
2			
3			
4			
<b>Conclusion</b>			
The most permeable rock is			
The least permeable rock is			
The best rock for building a wall is		because	
The best rock for making a kitchen worktop is		because	
The best rock for building a house is		because	

