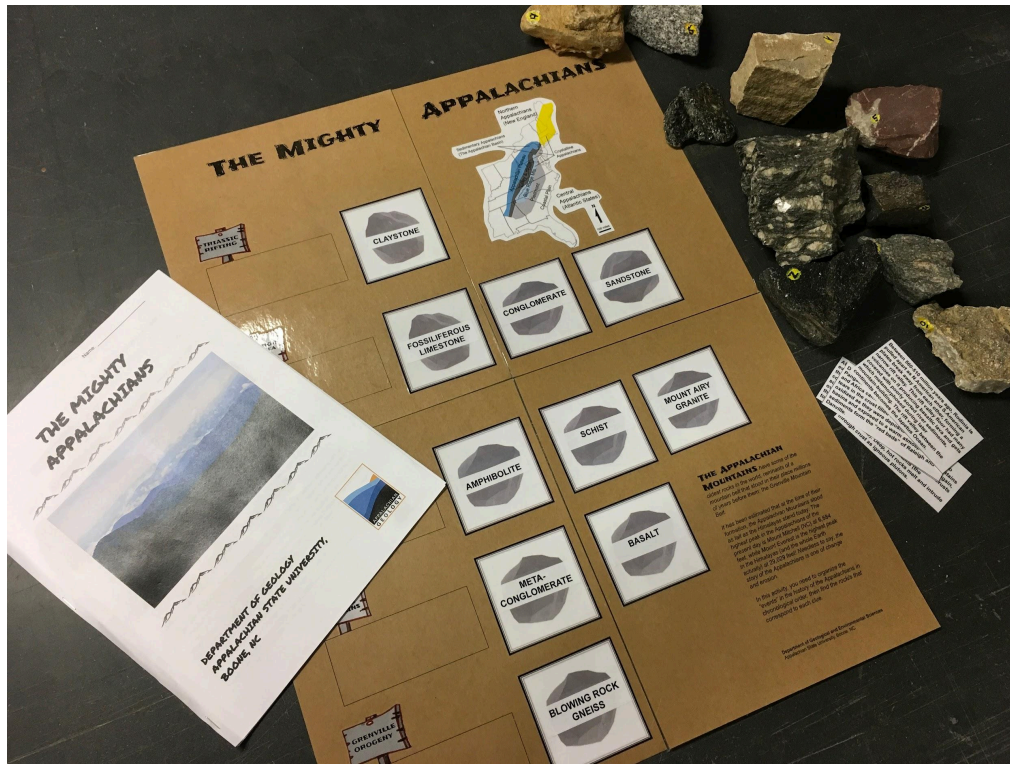


# The Mighty Appalachians Activity

## Teacher Instructions

In this activity, students learn about the different events that lead to the formation of the Appalachian Mountains as we know them today.



Each group of students gets a bucket of 10 rocks labeled with the numbers 1-10 as well as a “board template” (seen above printed on brown craft paper) and the corresponding labels that will go on the blank text boxes in the template.

The rocks should be labeled as follows (only the number should be on the rock, not the name!)

### ROCKS-

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Sandstone           | 6- Mount Airy Granite |
| 2- Amphibolite         | 7- Basalt             |
| 3- Blowing Rock Gneiss | 8- Metaconglomerate   |
| 4- Schist              | 9- Conglomerate       |
| 5- Claystone           | 10- Fossil limestone  |

If you want to re-create this activity and are missing some of the rock samples, please contact Marta Toran ([toranml@appstate.edu](mailto:toranml@appstate.edu)).

Other materials:

Link to [Formation of the Appalachians Activity](#) (board template and labels)

Link to [The Mighty Appalachians Student Handout](#)

Once each group has a set of rocks and a board+labels, the activity can be carried out in at least two different ways depending on the teacher's preference: You can start by having students place rocks first on the spots they think they belong, or place the labels describing each event in the text box they think it belongs in. A class discussion follows, to go over where labels/ rocks were placed and review group answers. The next step is to either place the rocks, or the labels to complete the chart.

Alternatively, if the class needs more guidance, the teacher can go through each stage of the formation of the Appalachians (starting at the Grenville Orogeny and have students find the appropriate rock and label before moving on to the next stage.

The answers to the chart are provided in the same file as the activity template. There are some follow up questions included in the Mighty Appalachians Student Handout. Please note that this handout also includes a scavenger hunt for field trips to ASU Geological facilities and a learning guide to the Beacon Heights hike, so if you're doing this activity as a stand alone one, you will only need to print pages 1-3.