



## Activity: Rock Talk Crossword Puzzle

**Purpose:** After the class has completed *Edible Geology*, to familiarize students with the descriptive language geologists use when observing rocks

**Duration:** 20 to 30 minutes (less time is needed if students work in groups and use the word list)

### Materials required:

- One copy of the crossword puzzle and clue list per student
- Student's completed *Edible Geology* worksheet
- Puzzle solution for teacher reference
- Several copies of *Describing Rocks* handout and *Rock Observation Cards*
- *Franciscan Rocks of the Golden Gate* [information cards](#)

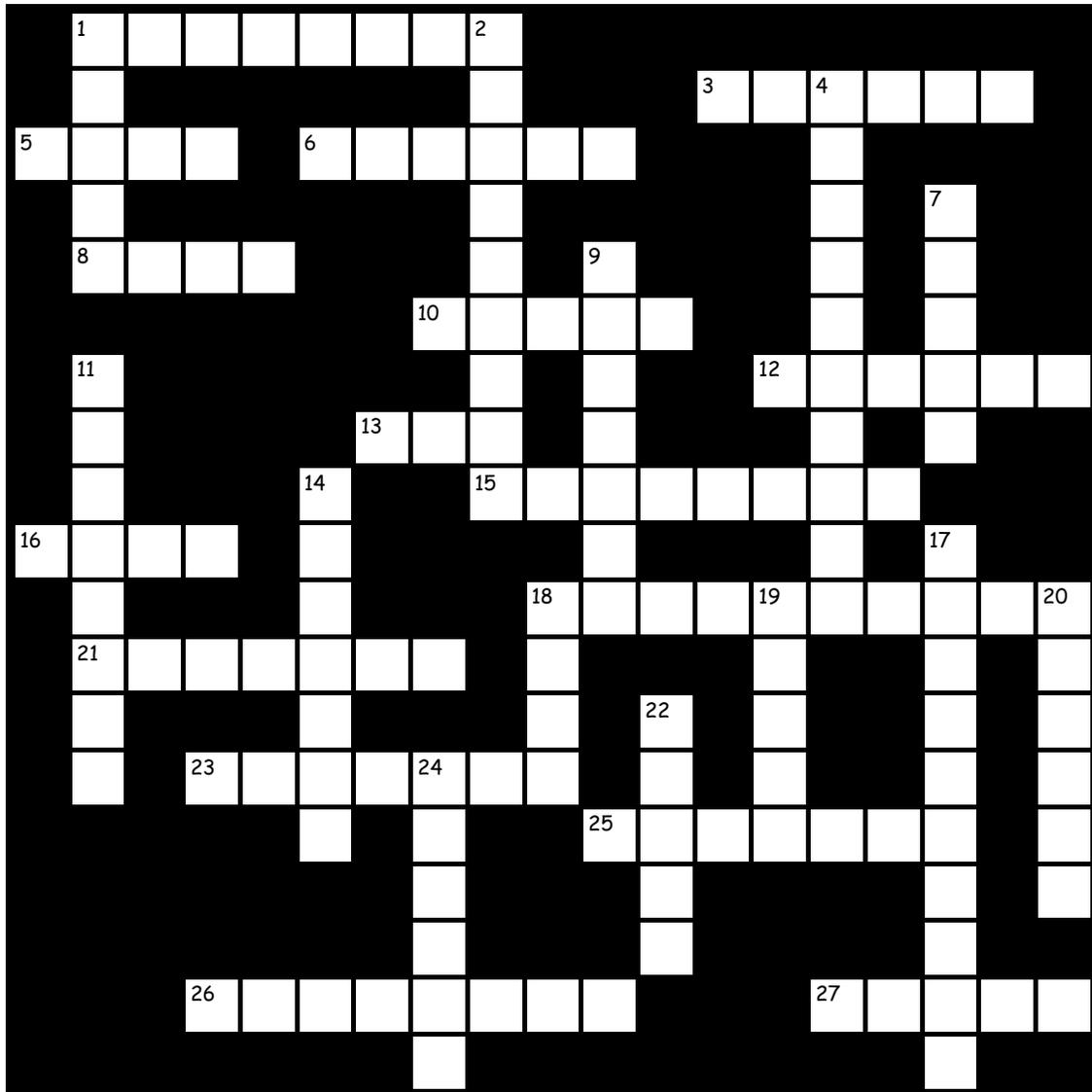
### Optional materials:

- One copy of word list per student (using the word list will make this activity easier and quicker for students to complete)

### Directions:

Distribute the reference materials in the classroom so that all students can view them as needed. Have students work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to complete the crossword puzzle. The answers to the clues can be found in the materials listed above and in the students' completed *Edible Geology* worksheets.

# Rock Talk Crossword



## ACROSS

**1.** Three-dimensional mineral structures in rock; quartz and hornblende are examples found in granite.

**3.** A word that describes the appearance of shiny obsidian or flinty chert.

**5.** A rounded or shapeless mass; the giant subject of a horror movie.

**6.** The roots of these can help break down rocks.

**8.** Water from his atmospheric source is a significant agent of weathering of rocks.

**10.** Seawater can weather cliffs when these hit the shore.

**12.** The texture of graywacke; like sandpaper.

- 13.** An agent of weathering you would expect to see in Greenland or Antarctica.
- 15.** The opposite of angularity; observed in rocks with no sharp edges
- 16.** An agent of weathering you would expect to find on a vast plain or desert.
- 18.** the process of rocks breaking down into sand and dirt.
- 21.** The way rocks appear when they have distinct horizontal zones.
- 23.** The condition of many weathered rocks, or how your bag of crackers appears after you accidentally stepped on it.
- 25.** Observed in rocks as thin, white lines, or with fibrous appearance in serpentinite.
- 26.** The appearance of diabase or granite, due to the different colored crystals found in these rocks.
- 27.** A slick, waxy texture or feel of a rock, especially serpentinite
- 17.** A boring clam or lichen growth are two examples of this kind of modification you may see on rocks.
- 18.** A slick and soapy texture sometimes seen in serpentinite. Also a texture you would expect to find in a bee hive.
- 19.** A road cut or chisel marks are examples of this kind of modification you may see on rocks.
- 20.** Sand and wheat are examples of these. Observed in sedimentary rocks.
- 22.** The geologist's term for rocks that don't appear weathered.
- 24.** A rectangular or cube-like shape common to pieces of Franciscan radiolarian chert.

## **DOWN**

- 1.** Yellow and green are examples of this thing to look for when observing rocks.
- 2.** Feels gritty; used to smooth wood.
- 4.** A long word to describe the way something looks.
- 7.** When iron oxidizes, the rocks appear -----, like a bicycle left out in the rain.
- 9.** Rough and smooth are examples of this, the way the surface of a rock feels.
- 11.** "Polka-dot" shapes found in some volcanic rocks.
- 14.** A stringy, silky texture, as found in fibers of asbestos.



## Rock Talk Crossword Puzzle Word List

ice

blob

rain

waxy

wind

color

fresh

human

rusty

soapy

waves

blocky

glassy

grains

gritty

plants

crumbly

fibrous

layered

texture

veining

crystals

rounding

speckled

vesicles

sandpaper

appearance

biological

weathering

