

Big Idea: Rocks and Caves

Over the last two weeks the children have had a great time learning all about rocks, caves and bats. We read the story *The Cave* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuNasqWy7BE>) drawing pictures of our favourite parts and mapping out the story pictures. We have been lucky enough to have lots of interesting and exciting rocks and fossils in class for the children to discuss, draw and write about - some of which were over three thousand years old! We have been painting ammonites, building fossils in loose parts and construction, making caves and exploring cave painting, designing and making our own gemstone jewellery as well as learning how geologists sort, record and take care of the rocks and fossils they find. We even made our own rock and gemstone museum to display our finds as well as a jewellery shop in the role play area to sell our gem stone designs. This week we have focussed our learning on bats and have been making families of bats, painting cave paintings and even making our own bat cave! It has been a fabulous two weeks and we are looking forward to our final BIG Idea of the year next week!

Next Week's Big Idea and Big Challenge

As the cold weather moves in we will be looking ahead to concentrate our exploring and learning on Winter and Christmas! We will be doing lots of Christmassy activities and investigating snow and ice as well as decorating our classrooms ready for the big day! Talk to your child about Christmas and Winter. What do they know about Christmas? Maybe you could draw a picture of your Christmas tree and count all of the baubles? You could even put some of the baubles in order of size! Does your child know the Christmas story? They could draw a story map and label each part with words or even sentences! You could make some Christmas cards with your child - don't forget to let them sound out the words and write the sounds that they hear independently! We would love to see some pictures of all your Christmas activities on Tapestry! Have fun!

