

Big Idea: Rocks and Caves

This week the children have had a great time learning all about rocks, fossils and caves. We read the story *The Cave*, 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 having our own archeological dig site where the children found some interesting rocks and learnt how archeologists sort, record and take care of the rocks and fossils they find. After enjoying making our ammonite jewellery we decided we needed somewhere to sell it and so created our own Millfield jewellery shop which even inspired some wedding proposals with the rings we bought from the shop! This sparked lots of wedding role play and discussions about the children's experience of weddings; we have loved hearing about the special 'clippy cloppy shoes', dresses and suits the children have worn.

Next Week's Big Idea and Big Challenge

We have had such a great time this week learning all about rocks and caves that we have decided to continue with this next week, building on the interests of the children. We will be moving on to look more closely at bats and mining for gems. We will also build on the children's fascination with weddings and jewellery for special occasions.

Have you ever been to a wedding? We would love to see any pictures of family weddings that the children have attended. Maybe you could look at some old photos of family members getting married and talk to your children about the celebrations? We would love to see some old photos on Tapestry of parents or even grandparents getting married to put up in our classroom for the children to talk about!

Why not talk to your children about their family tree? You could even draw a family tree out or sort photographs into a family tree! Maybe you could even bring in some special items from any weddings you have been to for us to look at on our investigation table? Have fun exploring and learning!

