



Hot Rocks! (recommended ages 5+, with adult)

Gather

- Rocks (any kind, but smooth and flat work best)
- Crayons, paper removed
- Aluminum foil
- Oven (regular or toaster oven, NOT a microwave!)
- Oven mitts or tongs
- Large bath towel or cardboard to cover work surface
- Clothespins or plyers to hold the crayons (optional)

Let's Create!

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit, rinse off rocks and towel dry.
2. Cover an oven-proof baking pan or cookie sheet with aluminum foil.
3. Place rocks on the pan and **have an adult** place in the oven for 10-15 minutes.
4. Place a folded bath towel or a few layers of cardboard on a table to protect the table from the heat of the rocks. Cover the top with aluminum foil.
5. **Have an adult** CAREFULLY (with the tongs or the oven mitt) place the rocks on the foil-covered towel or cardboard.
6. Using a tool to hold the crayon, (or holding the crayon carefully with your fingers) press the crayon against the hot rock. **DO NOT TOUCH THE ROCK!**
7. As the crayon melts, see if you can swirl it or spread the melted crayon around. Watch it drip and make patterns on the rock. Try to mix different colors, too!
8. Experiment with pressing the crayon firmly or lightly on the rock, what happens?
9. When you are happy with your design, let your rock sit to cool for several hours.
10. When cool, find a place to display your rock or give it to someone as a gift!

How Does it Work?

All things absorb heat energy when placed in or around another object that is hotter, and store it until they are placed someplace cooler. The rock absorbs heat energy from the oven and then releases it after coming out. The heat energy is then transferred to the crayon when it's pressed against it. The crayon absorbs the heat energy until it absorbs so much that it begins to go through a change called melting (just like an ice cube!)

Take it Further!

Use a blow dryer to warm your crayons up before drawing on paper - what happens? Why do you think this is?

For more information, visit: <https://artfulparent.com/melted-crayon-rocks/>