

Character ROCKS!

There are many things that you can do with a 2 lb. bag of polished river rocks and a marker. Use a fine-tip Sharpie to write character words like these onto the rocks:

- *trustworthiness, honesty, integrity, loyalty, reliability, conscience, principled, reputation, friendship, support, attitude
- *respect, tolerance, acceptance, value, dignity, privacy, nonviolence, courtesy, peaceful, negotiation, sensitivity, good manners
- *responsibility, duty, accountability, dependability, excellence, self-control, perseverance, diligence, pride, determination, dedication
- *fairness, justice, open-mindedness, impartiality, equality, equity
- *caring, concern, empathy, kindness, consideration, helpfulness, charitable, compassionate, forgiveness, gratitude
- *citizenship, volunteerism, sportsmanship, courage, conservation, obedience, patriotism, heroism, service, honor

Then you can try the following ideas:

1. Put 10, 15, or 20 of the character rocks on a tray. Have the students study the words. You can discuss them for meaning and have students give examples. Have students close their eyes, then take 2 or 3 away. Have students try to remember which ones are gone.
2. Have students sort the words by pillar. See if any of the words could fit two or more pillars. Then you can play a game of concentration by turning them word-side-down and have students flip to find two that belong to the same pillar. For example, honesty and integrity would both go with the Trustworthiness pillar, so you would have a match.
3. Play a game of opposites. Either write the opposite on the back of the stone or just discuss what the opposite of each word would be. Or make a second set of stones with opposite words (like dishonesty) and play the concentration game with opposites.
4. Get a character rock for each student and have him or her write on the trait that he/she wants to work on.
5. Put the rocks into a fountain, planter or vases as a conversation piece.