

WATER, MUD, AND ROCKS

Join your child and explore the world around you! While looking closely, touching, sniffing, and trying things out, your child will learn about the natural world and practice using important science and math skills. Talk together about what you notice. Don't worry if you don't have answers. Learning is all about being curious and searching for knowledge. It's fine to say, *I don't know. Let's see what happens if we try it.*

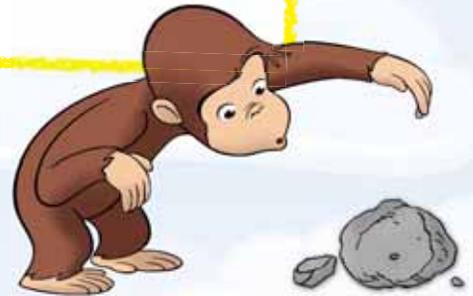
Raindrops and Puddles

 Water drops come in many different shapes and sizes. Try looking at raindrops with your child on a window. Ask your child to describe their shape. Choose two drops. Have a race. Which raindrop will run down the window first? Ask, *Why did one drop run faster?*

 Go outside. Look for raindrops on flat and slanted surfaces. Notice the way the raindrops move on the surfaces. See if they form any small puddles. If the day is dry, take a spray bottle and make your own "raindrops." What happens when your child sprays water on grass, on the sidewalk, on a bench, or on sand or dirt? Do the water drops break up, flatten, or do something else? Where do you see the "best" raindrops? Ask, *Why do you think that is?*

Mud Pies

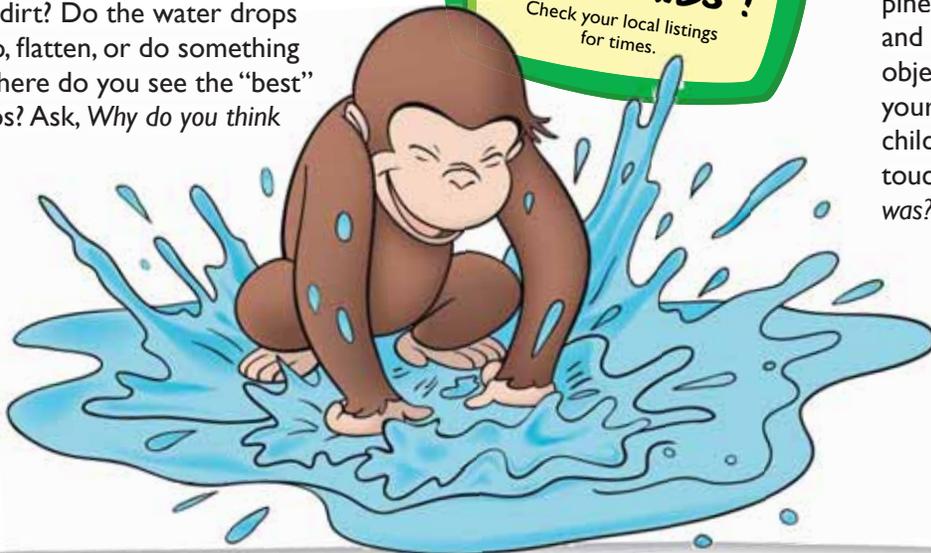
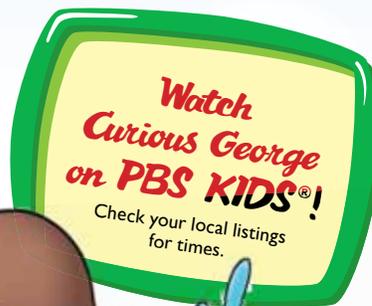
 Put on some clothes you don't mind getting dirty, grab a spray bottle, and head outside to make mud pies. How much water do you need to add to a little dirt to make the perfect mud pie? Let your child experiment to find the best "recipe." Ask, *What do you think will happen if you add more dirt, more water, or bits of dried grass and leaves?* Try it and find out. Ask, *What happens as the mud pies get drier and drier?*



Rocks, Pinecones, and Shells

 Look for rocks when you go to the park or the beach. Ask your child how they are different. Have your child pick out the ones that are smooth, or that have sharp points or sparkles. Try using a rock to write on the cement. Dip your rocks in water. What happens to the color? Ask, *Why does the color change?*

 Go for a walk and gather some things that are on the ground, like pinecones, shells, nuts, bits of bark, and twigs. At home, put one of the objects in a bag or sock and have your child reach inside. Can your child identify the object just by touch? Ask, *How did you know what it was?*



Read and Find Out

I Get Wet

by Vicki Cobb
HarperCollins, 2002

This book is filled with easy, fun ideas for learning about water. Choose the ones you like best and try them out together!

The Piggy in the Puddle

by Charlotte Pomerantz
Aladdin, 1989

Little piggy's in the middle of a muddy little puddle, and she's loving it!

Rocks in His Head

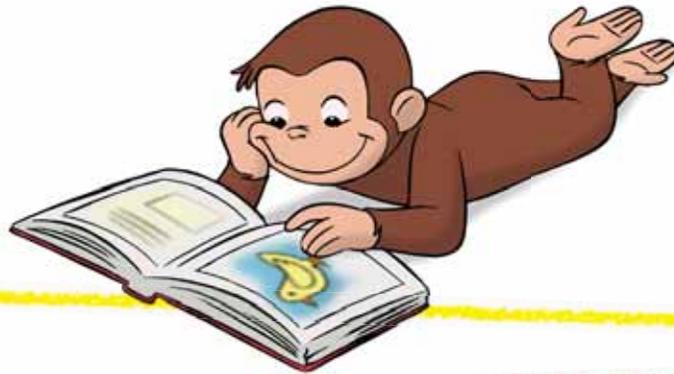
by Carol Otis Hurst
Greenwillow, 2001

From the time he was a boy, the author's father liked to collect rocks. He had "rocks in his pockets, and rocks in his head."

This House Is Made of Mud / Esta casa está hecha de lodo

by Ken Buchanan
Luna Rising, 2004

A much-loved adobe home in the Sonoran desert is described by the child who lives there. (in English and Spanish)



Click and Explore

Visit the *Curious George* Web site at pbskids.org/curiousgeorge to continue exploring Earth science with your child.



Day at the Beach (Game)

Help George mix sand and water to build colossal sand castles. Just make sure they don't crumble!

Live-Action Video

Curious kids explore and make discoveries about Earth science in the real world. Watch the three videos listed below at pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/video. Then try some of the activities with your child.

Build a Current
Building a Dam
Sand Tunnels



Visit pbskids.org/curiousgeorge for more great science, math, and engineering activities.

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