Year 3 Rocks Science Discussion Starter - Follow-On Activities

- Give the children a variety of different rocks and ask them how they could be sorted. They could use the ideas from the discussion points or use their own ideas.
- Ask the children to think about how rocks can be used in everyday life.
- Explain that although rocks can be sorted by size and shape, the other suggestions are more scientific as they help us to discover more about rocks.
- As a class, create a mind map about the properties of rocks.

How Can Scientists Sort Rocks?

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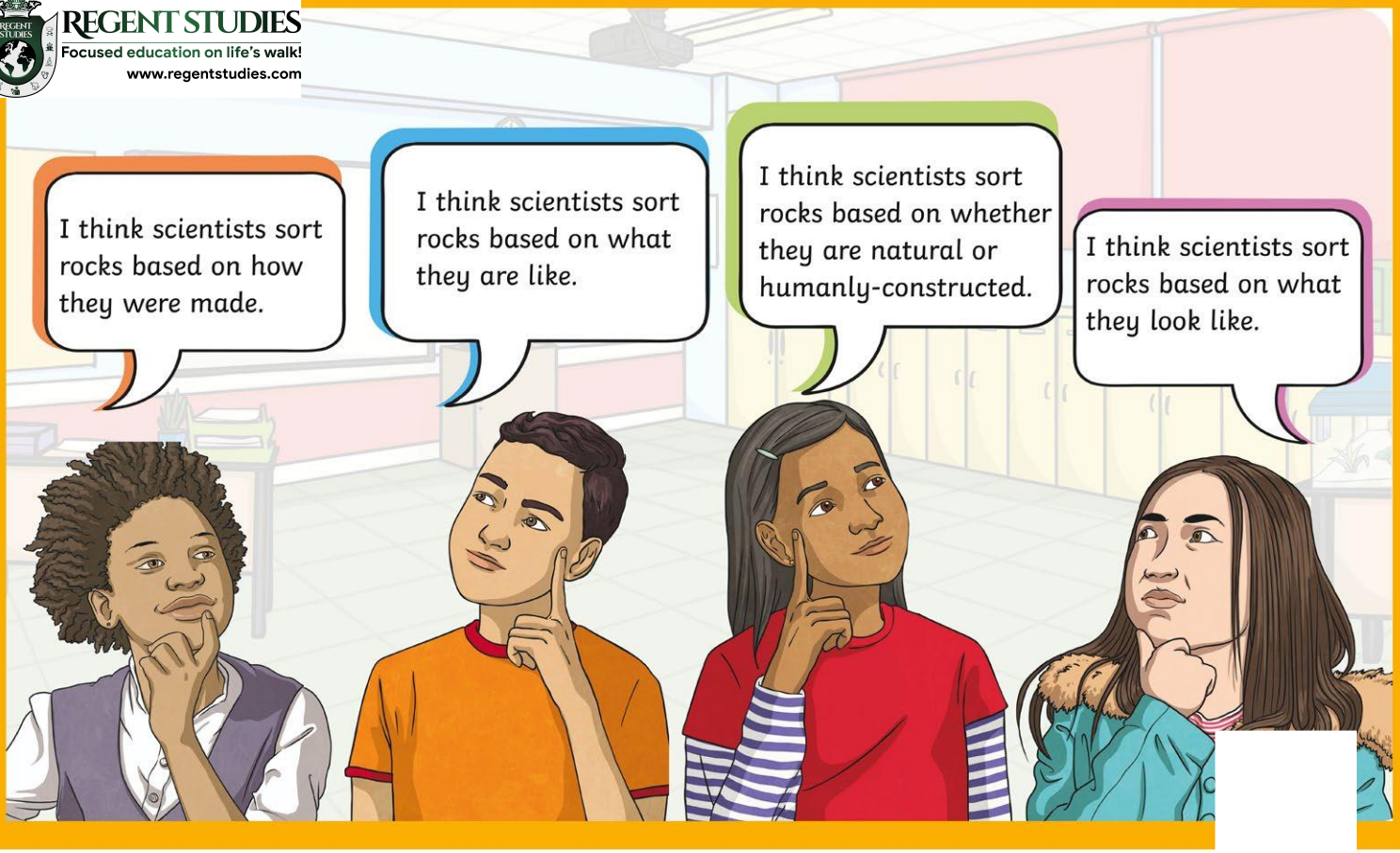


Answers - How Can Scientists Sort Rocks?

Asking scientific questions is a great way for you to explore a new topic.

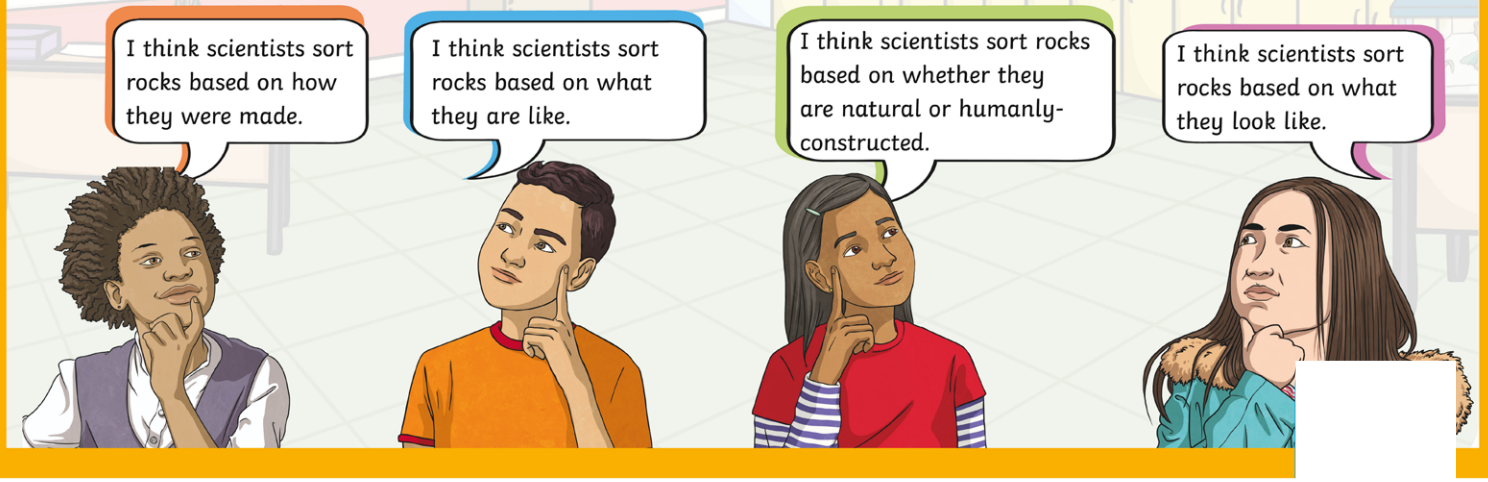
Although not all of your questions will be answered at this point, these facts may help you to understand more about **rocks**.

Scientists can sort rocks based on how they were formed. Some rocks are sedimentary (like limestone), igneous (like granite) or metamorphic (like slate).

Scientists can sort rocks based on their properties, depending on whether they are hard, soft or how durable (hard wearing) they are.

Scientists can sort rocks based on whether they are natural or humanly-constructed. Natural rocks include granite, limestone and slate. Humanly-constructed rocks include brick and concrete.

Some rocks can be sorted depending on what they look like, such as marble or sandstone.



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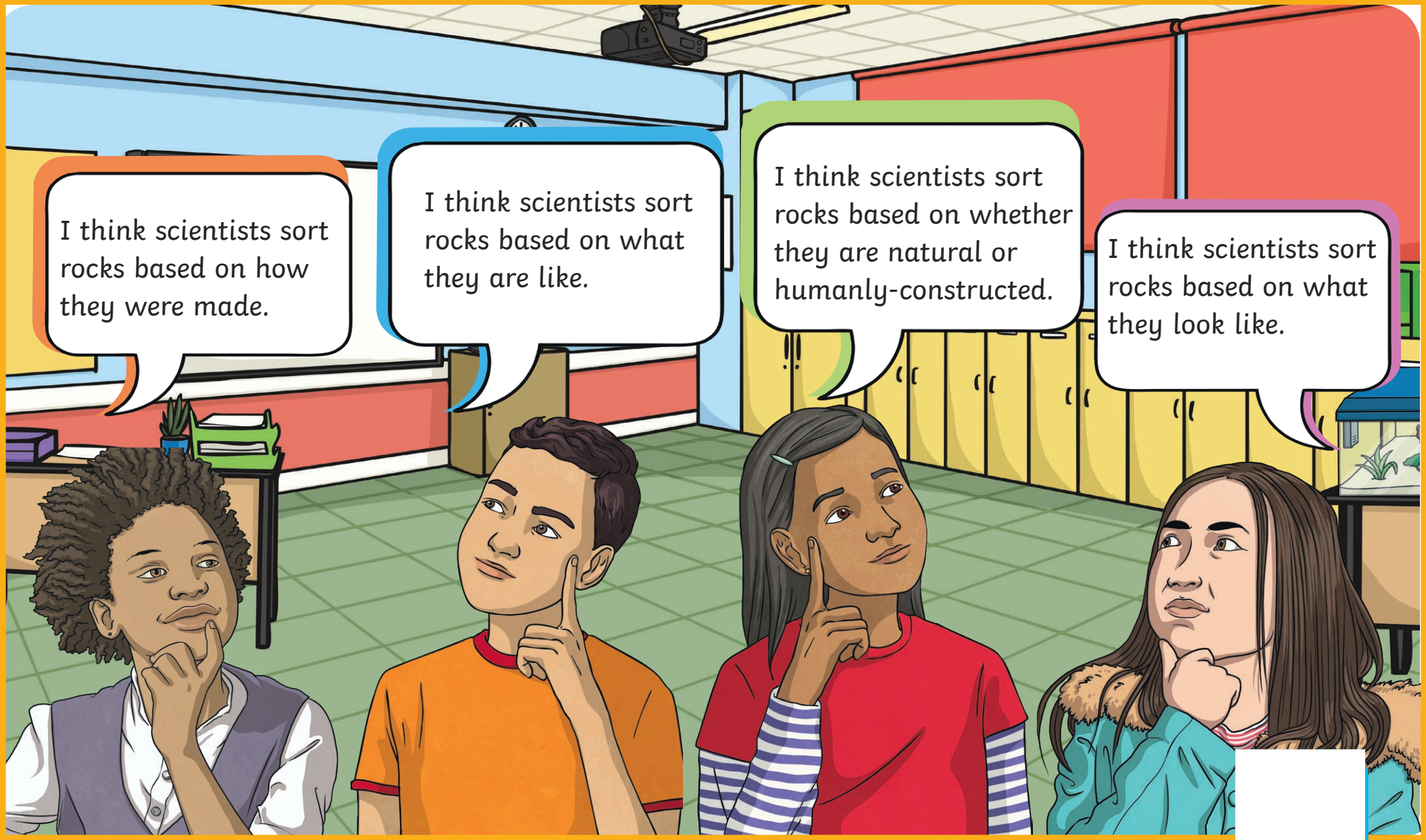
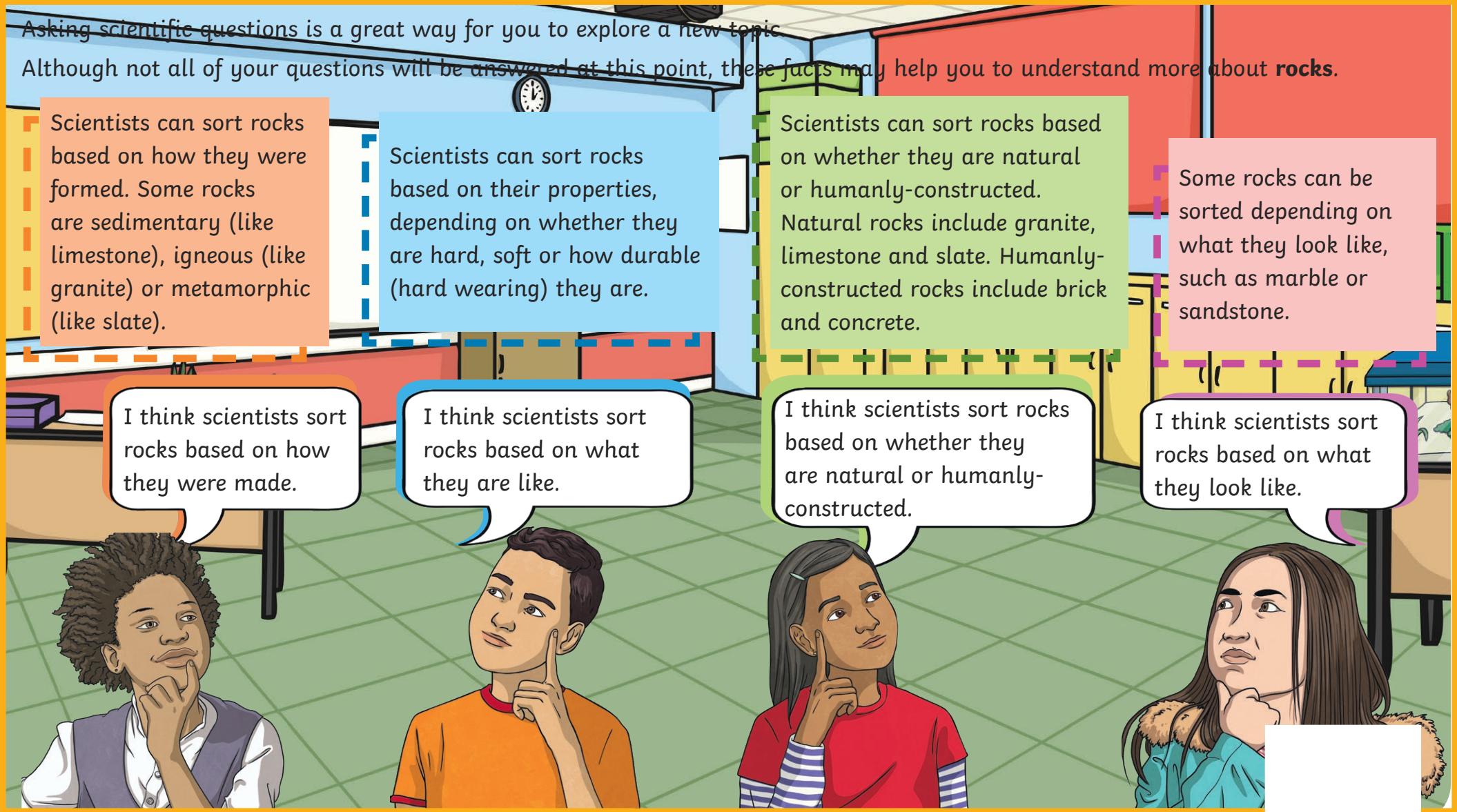


Answers - How Can Scientists Sort Rocks?



Year 3 Rocks Science Discussion Starter - Teacher Guidance

This science discussion starter pack is designed to encourage children's scientific thinking. Included are two sizes of the discussion starter, a PowerPoint version and a follow-on sheet, giving you more flexibility in the classroom.

Before showing the discussion points, you could ask the question to your class for them to share initial ideas. The starter page with the children's answers could then be displayed for the whole class to see and discuss as a class. Alternatively, children could work in smaller groups to discuss the points.

Points for children to consider include which children do they agree with and why. They should explain if there are any statements that they disagree with and whether there are some they partially agree with.

It is important that while using this resource, any common misconceptions that children have are addressed during the topic. Common misconceptions may include:

- rocks are all hard;
- rocks are all made in the same way;
- rocks are all the same and it's hard to tell where they came from or how they came about;
- it doesn't matter where rocks came from or how they were formed.

You may find the following definitions useful:

sedimentary rock - Rock that has been formed by layers of sediment being pressed down and squashed together.

igneous rock - Rock that has been formed from lava or magma (from volcanoes).

metamorphic rock - Rock that was sedimentary or metamorphic but changed due to extreme heat and pressure.

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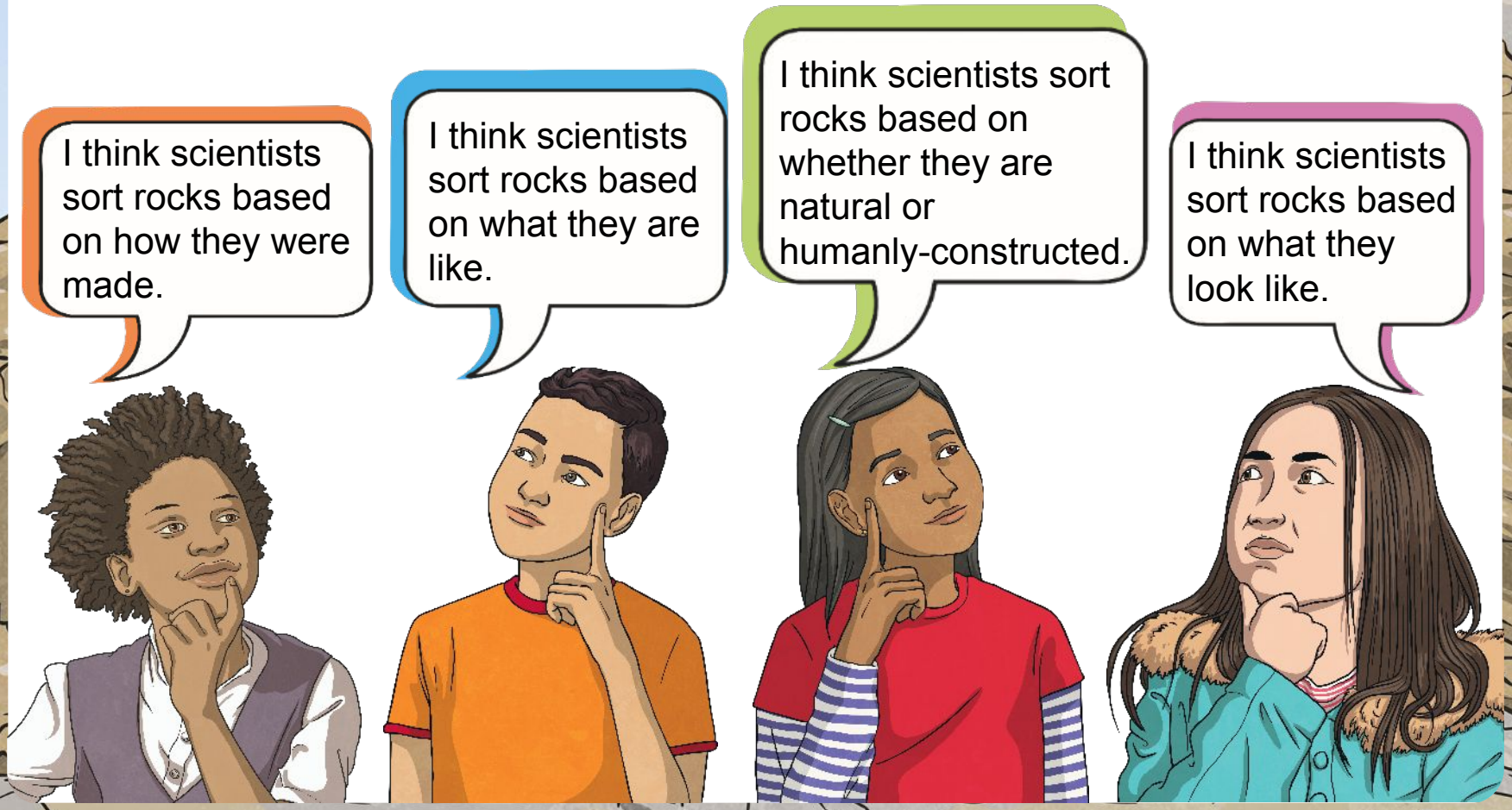
KS2 Year 3 Science - Rocks

Discussion Starter

How Can Scientists Sort Rocks?



Answers - How Can Scientists Sort Rocks?

Asking scientific questions is a great way for you to explore a new topic.

Although not all of your questions will be answered at this point, these facts may help you to understand more about **rocks**.

I think scientists sort rocks based on what they look like.

Some rocks can be sorted depending on what they look like, such as marble or sandstone.