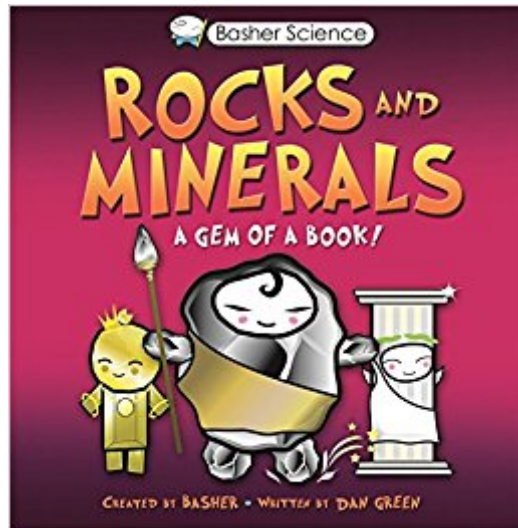




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# Basher: Rocks & Minerals: A Gem Of A Book



## Synopsis

Simon Basher is back with another zany primer to science! Following his 3 successful titles on the basics of chemistry, physics, and biology, **BASHER SCIENCE: ROCKS AND MINERALS** is an in-depth look at the ground beneath our feet. Like his other titles, Basher presents these topics through charming and adorable illustrations and pairs them with basic information told from a first person perspective. He develops a community of characters based on the things that form the foundations of our planet: rocks, gems, crystals, fossils and more. And what's more, he makes it understandable, interesting, and cute. It's not what you expect out of a science primer.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1050L (What's this?)

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Kingfisher; Pap/Pstr edition (September 29, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0753463148

ISBN-13: 978-0753463147

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.4 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Rocks & Minerals #850 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## Customer Reviews

Grade 3-8 "This unique book gives each rock and mineral personality and pizzazz through the use of a conversational, first-person text. (Quartzite explains, "Nothing wears me down! I'm the definition of true grit!") Three interesting facts, a short description, and a list of basic facts (chemical formula, hardness, etc.) are provided about each one. Full-color cartoons of the rocks and minerals include faces and other human characteristics that enhance the personalities. Navigation is facilitated with sections being designated by a color and symbol. Readers will enjoy and learn from this fact-filled, accessible book." Christine Markley, Washington Elementary School, Barto, PA  
END

â œ[T]he entries make lighthearted but unexpectedly meaty reading. Confirmed rock hounds will find this latest of Basher's forays into science a refreshing change of approach from more conventional treatments.â • â •Booklistâ œThis unique book gives each rock and mineral personality and pizzazz through the use of a conversational, first-person text. . . . Readers will enjoy and learn from this fact-filled, accessible book.â • â •School Library Journal

This review applies to MOST of the Basher books as they all seem to share the same mix of excellence and failure. First, these books are GREAT in that they present some of the terminology/jargon of the subject matter in a way that seems to interest small children! (in my experience, ages 4-7 seems about right) This is actually a BIG DEAL, as the books reliably deal in wonderfully important subjects. For this, I highly recommend them and thank the authors and publishers for their effort! However... there are two ways in which I find these books to be terribly disappointing: 1) The attempts to make each entry clever and fun raise the effective reading level high above the target audience. Clever puns and delightfully descriptive diatribes do not go over so well with young children just beginning to read. My six year old is completely ready for the subject matter, but struggles to the point of giving up (!!) trying to manage the prose. 2) IMHO, the attempts at fun language and clever characterizations often work to obscure the simplicity of the subject matter at hand. As a scientist who understands many of the concepts under discussion, I often find myself marveling at how these descriptions express an opaque and incomprehensible version of what are fundamentally simple ideas. \*sigh\* Basher Guys... I LOVE what you are trying to do. IMHO, if you can find a way to simplify the prose, and not let "characterizations" get in the way of "simple explanations", then you will be changing the WORLD!! So despite my reservations... BUY THESE BOOKS!... I think that as long as they use it to try to do better, these guys have TOTALLY earned our income!!

My son is seven years old and has been collecting rocks for years. He always talks about how he wants to be a Space Geologist when he grows up. This book presents factual information about rocks in a way that he can understand. The bright, colorful pictures keep him entertained while he reads the story of each rock. It's really cute that the information about each rock is presented from the rocks' point of view. He was so excited to get this book that he read it for over an hour when I gave it to him! This whole series of books is great! We've actually used several of them to supplement the curriculum in our home school. \*I paid full price for this item. This is my honest,

unbiased opinion.

Absolutely phenomenal book! My 6 & 8 year old devoured Rocks & Minerals and are begging for more in the series! The illustrations are great, Pyrite "Fool's Gold" wears a little jester hat, so it's become a game to figure out what the names might be of each character before we look. The information is precise while communicating facts in a fun way, both my Kindergartener and my Second Grader can comprehend what's they're reading but the info covers many things not taught until later in elementary school. Can't wait to add to our collection!

This and all other Dan Green illustrated books are fabulous! We make a point of seeking out quality science books and these remain at the top of our list. My boys are 7 and 9 but they have been in love with Dan Green books since they were 5. As with his other titles (Biology, Physics, Astronomy and Periodic Table) this book gives a face and a personality to scientific ideas and concepts which immediately connect with a child in. The topic becomes alive and interesting and there's no better way to engage a child and make his imagination soar. My boys take these books in the car, to grandmas house, to school, everywhere. The knowledge has given them great confidence in science because it is dispensed in a way that children can understand, and the characters are so lovable -- who wouldn't want to learn from them! Small, compact, not the least bit overwhelming, a must-have for little science lovers.

These Basher Science books are super great for a classroom library. I teach 4th graders, they love the half dozen or so of these books that we have. I do a little preview and the kids are hooked! Gotta love it when they don't realize they are even learning.

All of these books are really good. My 9-yr-old son's favorite is The Periodic Table. It makes each mineral, (or element, or whatever depending on the book,) into a character with a story that makes learning really fun and memorable. I highly recommend this book, and all of them in this series. Especially great for any child who loves science.

This book is amazing for 4th and 5th grade rocks and minerals lessons. Each element is a character and gives their traits which makes it fun and easy while still being educational

My 7 year old son is very interested in science and facts of all kinds. He absolutely loves all the

Basher a science books I have purchased for him. He learns a lot and remembers it better because of the illustrations.

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