



NATURE AT HOME

We hope to inspire kids of all ages to learn about the natural world and discover new connections to nature.



Life on the Rocks

View the video at DishmanHills.org/Nature-At-Home

PONDEROSA TREE:

- A huge ponderosa pine tree got its start as a seedling growing from a crack in a rock.
- Bark covers the trunk, but a massive root has gone down from the rock into the soil to draw in water and nutrients.
- Roots above ground develop bark.



LICHEN: “Fiona Fungus met Angus Algae and took a lichen to him.” Two organisms working together to share resources to survive.

- First organisms to colonize the rock and begin the process of changing it to soil.
- They come in many colors, textures and forms. Many forms feel rough to the touch.
- They like a lot of sun.
- They capture water, blowing dust and bits of decomposing matter.



MOSS: The mosses are the next to arrive. They send their roots down into the thin soils.

- Mosses were among the first land plants.
- Moss stays close to the surface and likes shade.
- They need a lot of moisture.
- Many feel soft to the touch.
- They capture additional water, from blowing dust and bits of decomposing matter.



TIME: Over time, the rock’s surface is covered with a rich layer of decaying organic material. Seeds from grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees are carried by wind, wing or fur. If the conditions are right, a seed will begin its life on the rocks.

Look around on your next walk in your yard, neighborhood, favorite park, or in nature. Do you see any life on the rocks? All these plants have found a way to make their life possible on a rock.

Share your discoveries or questions at Education@DishmanHills.org

