Ledyard (Captions Transcript)

Ralph: So here we are in Ledyard Connecticut. A fairly normal, upland setting here with hardwood trees dominating and some clear understory, some scattered boulders. But as we go down the trail a little bit further you’ll see something very interesting.

[music]

Now we’re a little bit further into the woods. Check out these boulders. There’s a pile here of small boulders, huge boulders all in a line going right over the top of this ridge, and it’s very atypical of an upland setting. So what do you think happened in the geologic past to create this feature?

Ledyard: Rocks: Bedrock

Ralph: Here we are at the entrance to Ledyard Park where we can clearly see some exposed bedrock. You’ll notice it’s pink, and the minerals that compose it are quartz, mica, and feldspar. We’d like to know if the boulders in this region are the same as this rock type. So check out the zoom tool and the rock chart to see if you can ID this bedrock.

Bedrock Acid Test

Ralph: Let’s do the acid test on this bedrock. It doesn’t fizz, so it can’t be limestone or marble.

Ledyard: Rocks: Boulder Field

Ralph: So here we are in this basin in this huge boulder field. We see that some of the boulders are rounded, they’re all different sizes, and they’re arranged in a narrow band about 100 meters across, which stretches in both directions as far as we can see.

Ledyard: Rocks: Boulder 1

Ralph: So here’s one of the larger boulders at the site. It’s sitting here up at the top of this hill. As you can see it’s quite large. It’s about four meters across, about three meters high, it’s rounded on all its edges, and it’s covered with moss and lichen, but we can see a slight pinkish color. Very hard to see here, but if we go around to the other side we can see it better, so let’s go over there and take a closer look. So here we have a fresh face of this rock, and we can see some medium sized crystals, probably quartz,
feldspar, and mica, the minerals that are making up this rock, and we also see some banding called foliation. So, check out the zoom tool and the rock chart to figure out what type of rock this is.

Boulder 1 Acid Test

**Ralph:** Now let’s do the acid test on this large boulder. It isn’t fizzing, so it can’t be marble or limestone.

Ledyard: Rocks: Boulder 2

**Ralph:** Here we have another rock. It’s rounded like most of the other rocks here, but unlike those rocks it’s more orange, it’s fractured in a slightly different way, it’s weathered, and it’s very crumbly as you can see. There’s no evident banding or foliation. The minerals that make up this rock appear to be quartz, mica, and a little bit of feldspar. So if you check out the zoom tool and the rock chart, see if you can identify this rock.

Boulder 2 Acid Test

**Ralph:** Let’s do the acid test on this boulder. It’s not fizzing, so it can’t be marble or limestone.

Ledyard: Rocks: Boulder 3

**Ralph:** Here’s an unusual boulder. It has that classic salt and pepper look. It’s black and white, it’s fine-grained. Unlike most of the boulders here there’s no pink feldspar. Check out the zoom tool and the rock chart to try to identify this rock.

Boulder 3 Acid Test

**Ralph:** Let’s do the acid test. It doesn’t fizz, so it can’t be marble or limestone.

Ledyard: Rocks: Boulder 4

**Ralph:** Most of the boulders here look a lot like this one. They’re very rounded, almost like a ball, small to medium in size, and the light pink color that you can see comes from feldspar, which is one of the minerals that makes up the rock, the other minerals being quartz and mica. Since this rock is so covered with lichen it’s very difficult to identify without breaking it open.