Findings from the Field

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Rock Tree

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Twas a sunny day at Pawtuckaway State Park in New Hampshire on Oct 29, 2021. That day, there happened to be a slight breeze around 12:00 p.m. Walking along one of the trails, there had been a tree growing straight out the center of a rock. The rock was bulky, with indents located all around. It made me curious as to how living organisms are able to survive off of such seemingly thin air and very little water connections. Seeing this, also made me wonder if *all* plants are able to grow out of rocks.

Through a little bit of research,I found that trees cannot actually grow straight out of pure rock, but they can begin to appear from small amounts of soils being let into the tiny tiny crevices and pockets of the rock. If the soil is successful, and little parts of the tree start to unfold, it can become powerful enough for the roots to shoot up through the solid rock and break through. If a tree has started forming on the outer surfaces of a rock, the roots can find a way to dig under the top surface and get to the nearest nutrients. Once a singular crack is found, the roots get stronger and eventually start to poke through multiple areas as the roots expand. The hard texture of the rock doesn't stop the roots from pushing through because of the little pockets found throughout. If there is little room, the tree takes it, only finding more and more air holes to build strength.

Going back to my second question, I found that the type of a rock has an influence on how/if a tree is able to grow. This is because the weather of a certain rock(the temperature, or amount of moisture held inside the little pockets) produces different soils and minerals. Therefore not all tall leafy greens are able to be produced. This relates to a particularly interesting topic found right in New Hampshire. There had been a volcano placed in the center of the three mountains forming Pawtuckaway. You may think how could trees ever form over a volcano, but the faulacles of a volcano actually carry positive minerals to boost plant growth. As

you can see, minerals take a big part in the health of these greens.

Since I learned this, I wonder about how the different minerals support different types of trees. To answer this, I could dig deeper into more research about different types of soil and species of plants. If you're curious even further about this topic, here's a link to get you thinking!

https://survivalfreedom.com
Link I used for info
https://www.geocaching.com

I wasn't able to get any real pictures of the real tree, but these one are similar

blue image

grey image